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Calvinist Contact

An independent Christian weekly

April 21, 1989 / 44th year of publication / No. 2162

Dutch immigrants won't receive promised pie-in-the-sky benefits

Bert Witvoet

ST. CATHARINES, Ont. — In all likelihood the agreement between Canada and the Netherlands which was to extend old age benefits (AOW) to Dutch immigrants in Canada is not going through. The information was leaked by a Dutch government official to a source known to *Calvinist Contact*.

According to the source, when representatives of the Rijksverzekeringsbank came to Canada to inform immigrants of an unexpected windfall, they went under the assumption that the accord between Canada and the Netherlands had been signed. This, however, was not so. It still had to be ratified by the Dutch parliament.

Opposition parties have since raised objections to the fact that benefits would be paid out to people who had never contributed to the Dutch pension plan under the law of 1957. This law was called the General Old Age Law (Algemene Ouderdomswet or AOW).

As a result of opposition objections, it now seems clear that Dutch immigrants who came to Canada before 1957, in other words, the bulk of Dutch immigrants, will not be entitled to any benefits. Only those who directly paid into the plan will receive pension payments.

Discussions to change the planned accord between the Netherlands and Canada and the Netherlands and the United States took place behind closed doors.

High officials of the Rijksverzekeringsbank are walking around with egg on their face, said the source, since they voluntarily, without any mandate from the government visited localities in Canada to explain the Accord and encouraged immigrants to send application forms to a Drs. Fransen of the Sociale Verzekeringsbank in Amsterdam. Mr. Fransen himself visited Holland Christian Homes in Brampton to explain the application procedure and to estimate the kind of benefits that would go to former Dutch citizens.

Jewish refugee professes faith in Christ

Photo: Jan de Koning

Annie Rietdyk (l) with her friend Jane de Koning.

Robert VanderVennen

TORONTO — When Annie Rietdyk made profession of her Christian faith in the Willowdale, Ontario, Christian Reformed Church on April 2, the peace and joy she felt were the fruits of loving care expressed to her by many people over the years.

As a Dutch Jewish child, Annie was hidden for three-and-a-half years during the Nazi occupation by a Frisian family in the town of Holwerd in northern Holland. "Oom en Tante" van der Woude loved her, and Annie went faithfully to the Gereformeerde (Reformed) church and catechism, as a good Christian child would. After the war it took a long time for Annie to be reunited with her family, and she was almost legally adopted by the van der Woudes. When her father, Mr. de Hond, found her, she learned that none of her immediate family died during the Holocaust, which made them almost the only Jewish family from Amsterdam which survived intact.

Annie immigrated to Toronto during the '50s, was married and had a family. But after 25 years of marriage her husband suddenly left her. She became despondent and ended up in a Toronto hospital in 1984. That prompted her to phone Mrs. Gerry Schnitzler at the Dutch consulate in Toronto because she couldn't keep an appointment regarding the pension she receives from the Dutch government.

Sensing her condition, Gerry asked if she would like a visit from a Dutch chaplain, and then Gerry asked her former pastor, Rev. Jack Geuzebroek, who was then a hospital chaplain, to visit Annie. He did, and then he called the Willowdale church to ask if a woman from Willowdale, where Annie lives, could visit and befriend her.

The love of a new friend

Jane de Koning visited Annie and they became good friends. A year ago Annie landed in the hospital again, this time from an insulin reaction. She went to Grace Hospital, which is run by the Salvation Army. She was invited to a chapel service there, and she was so moved by the singing and presentation of the gospel that she felt the arms of God around her and the voice of God saying to her, "You are mine." She cried and decided right there that she belonged in the arms of God and his son Jesus.

Annie and Jane began to meet regularly for Bible study and catechism. Rev. Gerard Rignalda, associate pastor at the Willowdale church and Geuzebroek's successor as hospital chaplain, also visited with Annie regularly. Her faith grew and her resolve to become one with the people of God was confirmed.

Annie's problems are not over, but she now lives joyfully with the arms of God and of God's people around her.

Punbit

Here lies John Knott:
His father was Knott before him,
He lived Knott, died Knott,
Yet underneath this stone doth lie
Knott christened, Knott begot,
And here he lies, and still is Knott.

From: Epitaph, Perthshire Churchyard

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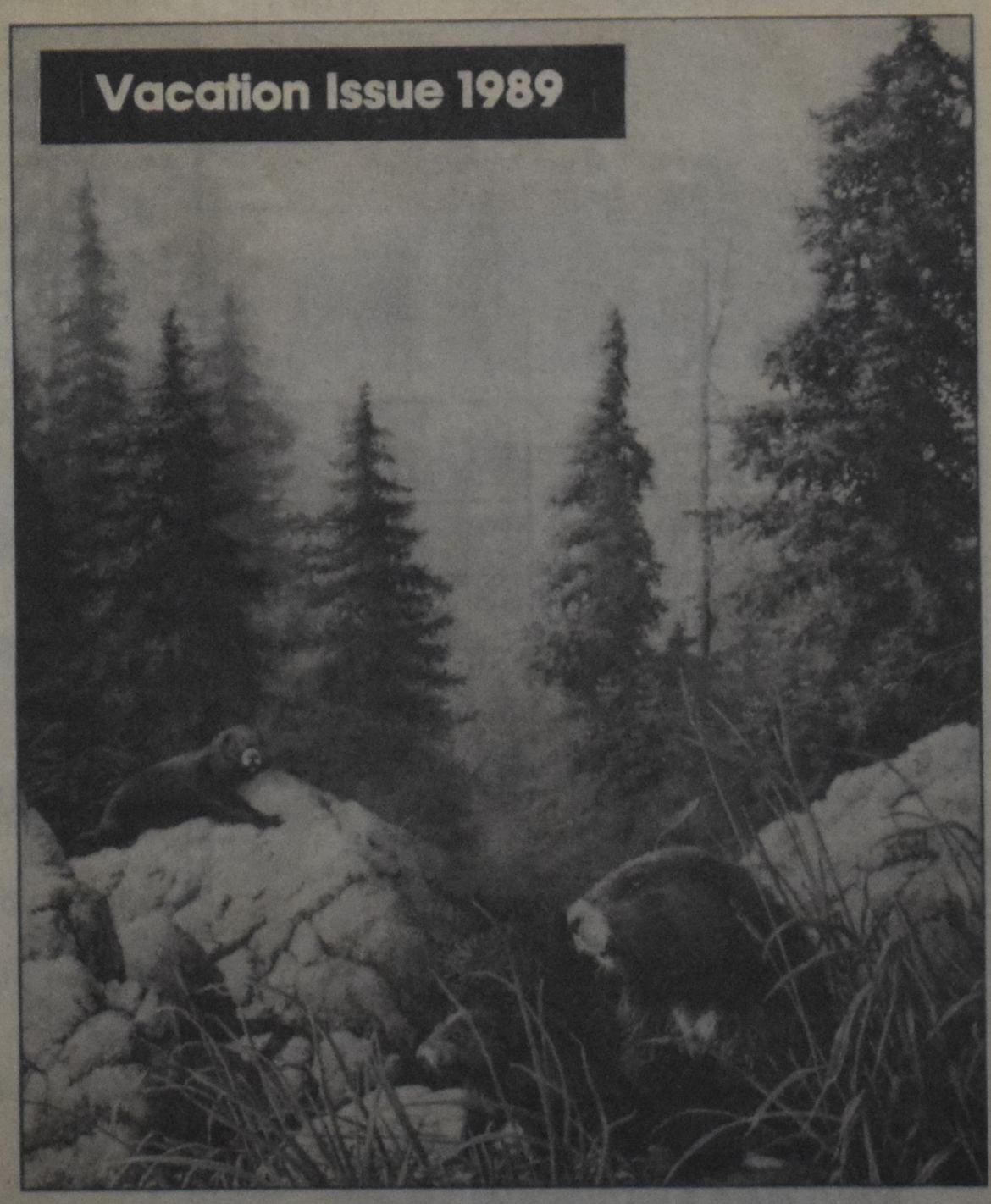
Tannie Batelaan shares her experience with integrated education for handicapped children . pp. 12, 13

Next two issues:
an indepth look at the orientation and practice of homosexuality



***Precious Few**, acrylic painting by Marla Wilson.* Precious Few *depicts the endangered Vancouver Island marmot, a species referred to in this Vacation Issue's page-nine feature, "Will your vacation spot be there in 2001?"*

Wilson and other wildlife artists regularly donate proceeds from the sale of their work to help save endangered wildlife.

Reformed churches in South Africa take steps to better race relations

VEREENIGING, South Africa (REC) — A long-awaited consultation on race relations among churches in the Dutch Reformed tradition closed last month with significant new steps being taken by all parties. In spite of some new steps, the final testimony of the consultation continued to reveal deep divisions between the black and white churches in the Dutch Reformed family.

The consultation was hosted by the Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC), a worldwide ecumenical body which has managed to keep within its ranks both the white and black elements of the Dutch Reformed churches in southern and central Africa. For four days from March 6-10, delegates considered the gulf that had come between them and ways in which they might be able to come together.

For the first time all the black churches of this tradition joined together to condemn apartheid in all its forms. They called on the government of South Africa to remove all the unjust laws and regulations and to start negotiations with the authentic leaders of the majority of the country.

In a second major development, the delegates from the younger black churches pledged themselves to become "one united non-racial Reformed church in southern and central Africa." This history-making pledge went far beyond what most delegates had hoped to achieve.

A measure of trust

Although the delegates from the white Dutch Reformed Church did not agree with the terms and phrases of the principle motion of the consultation, they did introduce a statement for the consultation, confessing their humility and sorrow at having participated in the legitimization of apartheid. They also pledged to combat all injustice, they called on the government to lift the state of emergency, and declared that any teaching that defends apartheid is heretical.

After adopting a testimony expressing the lack of agreement among delegates to the consultation, the delegates also adopted a short statement on civil obedience. The statement focused on the South African context, where many forms of political participation are denied to the black majority. In such a context, it was argued, civil disobedience becomes an urgent and compelling option.

Dr. Allan Boesak played a prominent role during the consultation as the author of its principal motion and the statement on civil obedience. Boesak also played a significant role in leading the black delegates to build some measure of trust in white delegates.

The presence of Dr. C.F. Buyers Naude, a white-anti-apartheid activist who was banned and ostracized by the white community for many years, also provided a model of spirituality that helped keep the discussions on a high moral plane.

Easter marriage produces new Toronto church

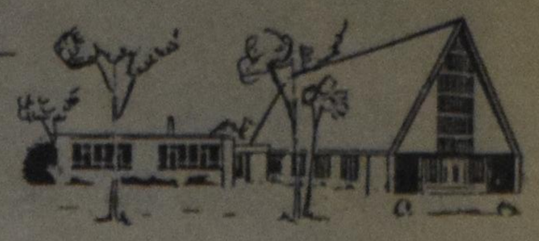
Herman D. Praamsma

TORONTO — At a special Easter morning worship service the Rehoboth and Fellowship Christian Reformed churches merged to form a new church, as yet unnamed, in the western part of Toronto.

Both churches experienced a steady erosion of membership in recent years and were looking for new challenges and ways to offer more effective ministries to their youth. They had both been struggling to find ways to revitalize and strengthen their vision.

Fellowship church, which saw its membership shrink from 42 to 27 families in just over two years, began wondering out loud if it would be possible to continue without drastic changes. Rehoboth, currently with 87 families, was not growing and under the leadership of its new pastor, John Tenyenhuis, was seeking revitalization. The two pastors talked together in the early summer of 1988 and came up with the idea of a merger.

So in the fall of 1988 a merger committee was struck which began meeting every three weeks. The committee worked at developing a common vision for ministry in each area of church life. Their diaconates had a joint meeting and church committees were urged to meet together, too. A schedule of joint worship services was drawn up, and joint services were held about twice-a-month.



Rehoboth Church — home of newly merged congregation.

Early this year the merger committee hammered out a draft merger proposal. Both consistories considered it separately, and then met in joint session to adopt it with only minor changes. Each congregation met separately on Febuary 20, and the proposal was overwhelmingly accepted — 100 per cent at Fellowship and 94 per cent at Rehoboth.

The merger went into effect on Easter Sunday, the day of resurrection of our Lord, a historic day of new hope and new beginnings. A celebrative worship service held at Rehoboth was packed with people. For the first time in years there were even rows of people in the balcony. More than 35 children came forward for the children's story, and congregational singing was robust and spirited.

Pastor Tenyenhuis preached on the theme, "Historical Happenings" from John 20: 1-18 and Ephesians 4:1-3. Pastor Praamsma was liturgist, leading a special "unity litany," and the two pastors shared in the administration of the Lord's Supper. Congratulatory messages were received from Classis Toronto and from the local ministerial association.

A new name is to be selected for the new congregation. It will use the premises of the Rehoboth church, since the Fellowship church had been using rented facilities. John Tenyenhuis will be the pastor of the new church, and Herman Praamsma — for the present serving as associate pastor — is exploring new possibilities for Kingdom service in institutional chaplaincy.

It is the fervent hope of all concerned that they may be used by the Lord to be a lively and inviting church in the western part of the city, building on their strengths and expanding their witness, said Tenyenhuis. They invite all who are in the vicinity to come and join them in worship and rejoice with them in God's goodness.

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Pressreview

Carl D. Tuyl

The face of Finance Minister Michael Wilson adorns every newspaper in the country at least twice a week. The minister continued his doom-and-gloom budget forecasts. Deficit reduction has become the primary target of this government. Too bad they did not think of that when they came into power and the deficit was no more than a quite manageable $170 billion. In the four years of P.C. government, that jumped to around $320 billion, and counting. This has been a government with a debt-wish.

They should perhaps consult B.C.'s Wilhelmus Maria. Wilhelmus is much maligned, pilloried almost daily by cartoonists, and his policies and statements tend to bring British Columbia into hitherto unknown heights of hysteria, but Wilhelmus is the only one in Canada operating with a surplus budget. A tip of the hat to him!

★★★★

There are tremors of election rumours coming out of Quebec. Bourassa does not have to call an election until the fall of 1990, but a Montreal radio station predicted that he will go to the polls much sooner than that. The premier is insecure about the language issue, of course. The Quebec assembly is made up of 99 Liberals, 19 PQ's and two independents.

★★★★

We turn again to the *Calgary Herald* for oil-related news. The *Herald* tells us that sloppy oil giant Exxon's legal beagles were barking at the proprietors of the Calgarian Entertainment Centre because those lads had dared to call one of their dining rooms Banana Maxx. Exxon claimed the way the x's were linked together contravened Exxon's trademark. You would think that Exxon's circumspection could much better be diverted to other areas of its operations.

★★★★

We had our own full-fledged, made-in-Canada hijack. The bus was commandeered in Montreal. Everybody lost track of it until it got stuck on Parliament Hill, where generally most things tend to get stuck. The RCMP took over and brought the incident to a peaceful solution. The CBC management team which replaced the striking personnel handled radio and television coverage quite well. As a matter of fact none of us missed Peter Mansbridge all that terribly much, did we now?

★★★★

The minister for immigration and employment announced that the unemployment fund will be milked of about $1 billion to finance some government sponsored re-training programs. The measure provoked Broadbent and his caucus to exceptionally eloquent speeches of protests which will resound for the next few weeks.

★★★★

And in case you wondered: all the coins tossed into the fountains at the West Edmonton Mall — about $3,000 per month — go to charity.

★★★★

There was an astute observation about Mulroney's cabinet in the *Toronto Star* which reported that the so-called Red Tories, characterized as socially progressive and fiscally responsible, have lost leverage to Blue Chip and self-made millionaire Tory elites who see the government more as a business than a safety net for the less privileged. Joe Clark is the only one left in cabinet, but his influence has been severely curtailed. The millionaires' club seems to increase with each swearing in, says the *Star*.

★★★★

Canada is not the only country with immigration problems. The city-state Singapore has at least 10,000 illegal workers from Thailand. Singapore's approach differs a bit from that of our Barbara MacDougall who appoints ever more interviewers and boards and investigators. In Singapore every illegal immigrant caught will get three strokes of the cane and three months in jail, followed by deportation. I prefer Barbara's approach, albeit I am sure it is much less effective.

★★★★

Fighting factions in Beirut are attempting to make that city into a likeness of Berlin destroyed in the final battle of W.W. II. It takes them a bit longer, but they are not too discouraged from their efforts by the cost of human lives, suffering or reason.

★★★★

Sins of the fathers are often visited upon the children. The children and grandchildren of the Bolshevik Revolution have to deal with the revolutionary movements in various parts of Mother Russia. There is political unrest especially in the Baltic states and in Georgia where nationalistic feelings clamour for independence.

★★★★

All of Europe was shocked by the revelation that four nurses at the Vienna Lainz hospital had killed at least 49 elderly patients. Yet euthanasia has often been discussed in Europe with considerable leniency and subtle approval. Perhaps this incident will teach people that only God can be both giver and taker of life.

★★★★

From Britain comes the joyful news that the second edition of the Oxford English Dictionary is now available. The cheapy-cheap version will cost $2,500. This news comes one year after I proudly acquired the complete first edition.

★★★★

My favourite *Whig Standard* reports an unusual medical scene also from England. A patient was wheeled into the operating room and about to be given a spinal anesthetic when one of the nurses spotted a mouse. Pandemonium broke out, and all systems stopped. All went in search of the mouse. Suddenly the patient sat up and shouted triumphantly: "There it is." The mouse was caught and surgery would begin, when the surgeon hit his head forcefully on the operating light, and collapsed on the floor with a concussion. I don't know how the patient fared.

★★★★

One of the most interesting diplomatic developments takes place on the other end of the world where North Korea is making shyly peaceful overtures to its one time arch-enemy: Japan.

★★★★

Twenty eight of Africa's poorest nations have called on Western creditors to write off all their foreign debts. Most of these countries are hovering perilously on the brink of economic disaster because of falling export prices, regional conflicts, and poor management. Fat chance; boards of directors of banks get terrible nightmares when they hear the expression "write off." Which brings up the subjects of our chartered banks and the national deficit. The combined profits of Canadian banks must be up there in the neighbourhood of $10 billion. And how much tax did these corporate citizens pay? You guessed it: zip, zero, zilch. How about looking in that direction for revenue generation instead of to the Unemployment Insurance benefits?

★★★★

And *Life* magazine now considers sweat a status symbol. Should there be aspiring writers among my readers, the magazine *Canadian Dimension*, a sort of socialist highbrow publication, is looking for articles on the topic of socialist sexuality.

★★★★

A reader from Essex asked me to say something nice about our government. Well, let me see now .... They sure are not cheapskates, they know how to spread the green stuff. Nice enough? OK here is one more: they can count noses very well.

Carl Tuyl is pastor of First Christian Reformed Church, Kingston, Ont.

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Editorial

Frisian prayer calls from a mosque?

Heerenveen is a Dutch town, situated about 12 kilometres from the smaller town, Joure, where I was born. When I think of Heerenveen (which means the marsh or fen of lords), I think of my uncle and aunt running a bakery and of an excellent soccer team. I associate the place with swans swimming, stately, in the hospital pond, with the first and only movie I sneaked into in Holland *(Joan of Arc)*, and with the final oral and written exams high school students of the region had to take there.

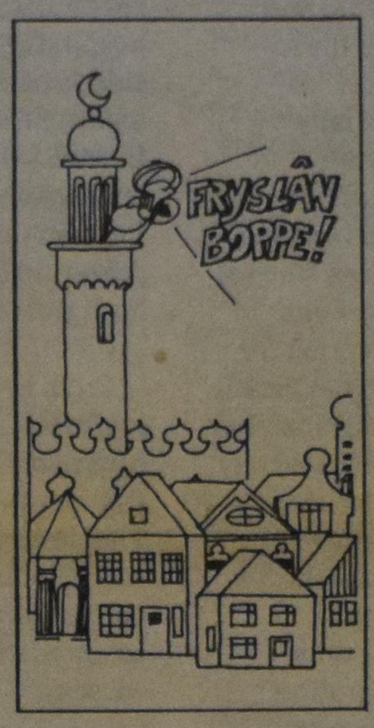
I would never associate a mosque with Heerenveen. But I read in the Dutch press that the influx of Muslims has resulted in the erection of a mosque there. Not only that, the inhabitants of Heerenveen are experimenting with new sounds.

The calls for prayers are being heard from the local mosque, as they are in Muslim countries. The Muslim community in Heerenveen, realizing how touchy the matter might be, decided to reduce its prayer calls from five-times-a-day to once-a-day, and twice on Fridays, that being their sabbath. The calls would last no longer than three minutes each, and be audible only within a radius of 100 metres from the mosque. This is considerably softer than is the custom in Muslim countries.

Freedom and responsibility

Whatever one may think of this type of development in hitherto predominantly Christian countries, it shows that a democratic country has to allow freedom of religious expression. If Christian churches may sound their church bells, then Muslim mosques should be allowed to call their adherents to prayer. Unfortunately, the favour of religious freedom is not returned in most Muslim countries.

The thing I regret is that so few Christian churches ring out their bells anymore, and I am not just thinking of the actual peal coming from lofty steeples or from electronic loudspeakers. It may well be that Muslim faithfulness will drown out the lackadaisical attitudes of Christian communities.



On a lighter note: we did not want to withhold from our readers the rather humourous cartoon that appeared in the magazine *Kerkinformatie* as it reported on this development in Heerenveen. Those who understand a little Frisian, will recognize the chauvinistic slogan, "Friesland on top!" It's doubtful that Morroccan and Turkish Muslims living in Heerenveen will take up that slogan as they call the faithful to prayer. But the idea of this well-known Frisian expression coming from an Eastern-style turret cleverly drives home the point of incongruity.

BW

God spits out passive systems

Two recent events — Barbara McDougall's tabling of a policy paper on changes in the unemployment insurance program and the launching of a lawsuit by 13 Kingston inmates, seem to point at what may well be a typically Canadian flaw.

What these two events have in common is that they hint at a passivity in the way we do things in this country. Compared to Sweden, for example, Canada spends more per capita on paying out unemployment benefits, whereas Sweden puts more of its money into retraining unemployed people so that they can be employed again. Sweden has an active type of policy compared to the passive Canadian policy of simply doling out money. Fortunately, Barbara McDougall wants to change that.

The lawsuit by 13 sex offenders again points to a certain passivity, this time in our penal institutions. The Penitentiary Act calls for treatment for these offenders. In fact, imprisoned sex offenders will not be considered for parole until they have received treatment. But treatment is not given. One inmate even offered to pay for his own treatment but was turned down. Why this passive attitude to prisoners? It does not require a lot of research to point out that prisoners in general suffer from a non-active approach to rehabilitation.

Spiritual laziness

Passivity is a common disease in the land. The recently released film *Malarek* tells the true story of a young offender growing up in Montreal and being given a chance by a kind judge to turn his life around. He did. He became interested in journalism. But he noticed rather quickly how lacking in passion and zeal many of his journalist colleagues were. They were far too passive in their reporting to suit him.

Passivity is a sign of spiritual laziness. It is a serious illness that makes everyone part of the problem rather than part of the solution. Exxon was and still is guilty of passivity. So was and is the Ontario government with regard to Sunday shopping, abortion clinics and funding for independent schools. Passivity marks the crowd who pass by an incident of assault or a church community which does not confront the evils in its midst.

Very few people are killed by active assailants compared to the vast number who are slowly dying because of neglect. A pastor once told his congregation that 98 per cent of their sinfulness consisted not of things they had done wrong, but of things they had failed to do. Theologians call that "sins of omission."

Lack of vision

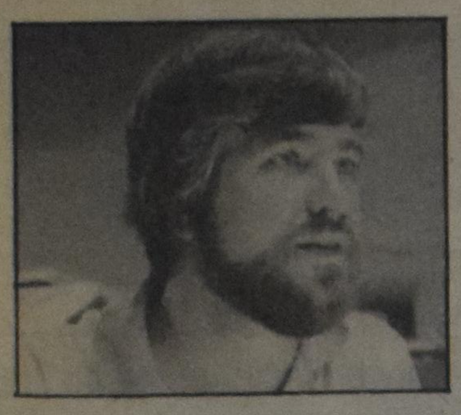
Recent demonstrations on behalf of the poor address the passivity of governments in the face of government-directed economic development. One sign said it all: "Poverty sucks." So does passive legislation.

Would that our governments would show the same initiative and creativity for intangibles such as continuing employment, rehabilitation, ecological preservation that they display when it comes to building domed stadia and first-class tourist facilities. Two weeks ago the mayor of St. Catharines voted against setting aside funds to fight a provincial plan to locate a centralized waste incinerator facility in neighbouring West Lincoln. But he did not mind spending a few million on one more ice arena for the city.

A passive people perishes because it does not have enough vision for the things that count.

BW

JUST A MOMENT/HERMAN PRAAMSMA



"Old men have the need to touch sometimes with their lips the brow of a woman or the cheek of a child, that they may believe again in the freshness of life."
(Maurice Maeterlink, 1864-1949,
Pelleas and Melisande, *Act IV, Scene 2)*

Our congregation is in charge of Sunday worship at a nursing home. We go there faithfully every other week for a half-hour of singing, Bible-reading, and a short message; tea is served afterwards. It is a most rewarding experience. The audience consists mainly of people who are confined to wheelchairs, and who greeted their 70th birthday some time ago. We have gotten to know each other better and better, and this little group has become an extension of our church family and of our worship experience.

It is really wonderful, and that's my point in writing this, that our children can also be part of this experience. We live in a society which, by-and-large, does not advertise its elderly. They are not glamorous and they are not desirable. Grey hair, or incontinence, or a mind that is not always alert are not things that are shown on TV. And as you all know, most elderly parents no longer grow old at the homes of their children, but are residents of senior citizens homes or nursing manors.

Many children grow up without the immediate experience of elderly folk with whom they can interact. That's too bad, because the aged are a large and integral part of human life. And I don't mean that in the sense of: "Our children can learn a lot of wisdom from the elderly." I mean this: God's love covers our life from beginning to end, and one of the ways in which that love takes on form and meaning is through people. As a mother simply being with her child reflects that love, so a child, simply being with an old person may do the same.

Soul-enriching

The child learns to experience giving and being with people in settings that some might consider unglamorous. And that experience is part of growing in caring and wisdom. It is spiritual growth to see such service as a normal, soul-enriching part of the Christian life.

The elderly often have little opportunity to see, touch or interact with youngsters. How they love to see or hold a baby once in a while! And how refreshing to be asked all kinds of naive and personal questions by children who don't quite understand the finer points of tact, and therefore treat you as a real person!

If your church is not engaged in this type of ministry (yet), maybe you can give a little push. It won't lead to church growth perhaps, but it will lead to personal growth and a deepening of your own faith life, and it will instruct your children in the ways of the Lord in a very "hands-on" kind of way.

I don't know about you, but I love being called "young man," and responding to requests to touch my hair. All that too, you see, is part of bringing the gospel, for you can only do that by bringing yourself, your love, your children and your sense of humour.

Herman Praamsma is pastor of Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, Rexdale, Ont.

Letters

Questions public airing

It is evident that Mike Geisterfer's story (C.C. March 31) tells of an extremely painful experience his family went through in Woodstock, Ontario, 16 years ago. It is also evident that Mike has not yet come to terms with this event.

Understandably so, since at age 14 one is usually still dependent enough to feel extreme fear when one's parents' world seems to fall apart; and at 14 one is just old enough to be able to feel identification with parents' pain, and youthful enough to feel holy rage at unfair and uncharitable treatment by members of one's community. Add to those 14 years another 14 years of silence about the event, and it stands to reason that this old wound is still bleeding.

My intent is not to minimize Mike's subjective experience of what happened. Rather, it is because I identify with Mike's hurt that I am moved to respond. I fear, however, that a public airing of an open wound is not the best way to accomplish healing. It is inevitable that a 16-year-old memory of a 14-year-old boy's hurt and rage cannot objectively interpret the events that led to the painful split between a congregation and its minister.

So how are we to respond to Mike's story? I hope no one from the Woodstock area will react defensively, feeling a need to "set the record straight" with Mike. I hope all responses will acknowledge our mutual sin when our community lets the evil of hate, aggression, stubbornness, etc., overpower the fruits of the Spirit in our relationships.

I hope most of all, though, that Mike will rid himself of his bitter handicap, perhaps with the help of a counsellor, so that he may once again feel free to experience kinship with all groups which profess Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, including the Christian Reformed Church.

Judy Cook
Hamilton, Ont.

Hesitant love for CRC

Not surprisingly, I was shocked to read "Tornado over Woodstock" by Michael Geisterfer (March 31), which was not an article about the 1979 storm but an account of how Satan's presence was experienced within a church community.

My family was among Pastor Aren Geisterfer's supporters. Even though my mother, brothers, sisters and I still attend Christian Reformed churches, I feel the same way that Michael does — loving the Christian Reformed Church but still not completely trusting it. Maybe it is because at the time I was a confused teenager.

Michael's account of how his family was treated by certain church members is an example of how people use the Bible or their "religion" for negative purposes, in this case, to condemn and "defrock" a minister who was simply unique to Christian Reformed expectations.

Though many of us still bear the scars of a "Woodstock," may we thank God that a generation later Christian Reformed Church members generally are of a kinder spirit and more open-minded to change.

Shirley Vos (nee Huinink)
Brantford, Ont.

Reformed or English?

Thanks to Mr. Wolters for his valuable contributions made to C.C. readers over the past years. His articles have always provided insight and have pointed in the right direction, namely, obedience to our Lord and Saviour.

I disagree with the decision to discontinue the Dutch articles. It is bad enough that Mr. Wolters cannot contribute in Frisian! Please, poll your subscribers on this very important issue of having Dutch articles.

The Dutch is a vibrant part of C.C. and in my opinion should continue. I am convinced the majority will say: "Gewoon doorgaan!" (Just keep doing what you are doing.) Some things don't translate well.

One grandfather wrote his grandson studying at Calvin College: "How are things with you there in Grand Rapids? Are you still Reformed or has everything become English?"

Sam de Walle
Calgary, Alta.

Looks for spiritual vitality

It was quite surprising to see that Pensive Dutchie, in his last article in Dutch, acknowledged God's grace only once in regard to his vitality and used the words *me, mine* and *I* over 60 times. The last contribution in Dutch could have been meant to be pensive, but to me it sounded a little self-sufficient too.

Chris Verstraete
Point Edward, Ont.

Lent awareness

I can tell when Easter is 10 years or 25 years from now (Alice Los, March 17). Webster's dictionary will tell me. But I was not "acutely aware of Lent."

However there are more than 10,000,000 Roman Catholics in Canada who are aware of the season of Lent. During this time they pray more, give more to the poor, pay more attention to the sick and go that extra mile to help those in need.

K. Mazereeuw
Mississauga, Ont.

Affirmation

Please add my "silent, prolonged cry of terror" to Michael Geisterfer's and a loud "AMEN" to Lloyd Rang's call to "re-evaluate our approach to the covenant."

Dorothy Vaandering
London, Ont.

Regrets purity fever

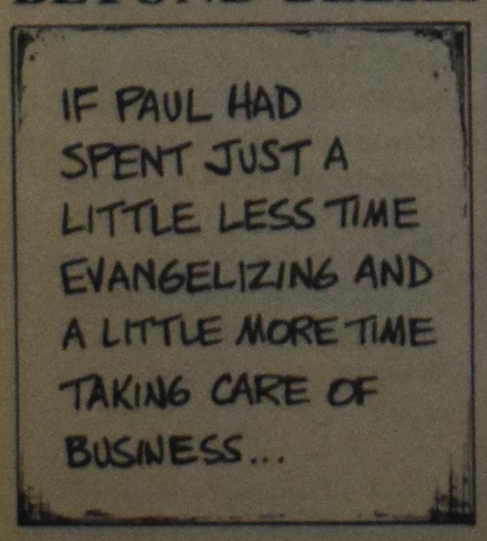
Thank you for publishing Michael Geisterfer's story. It is sad to know that as long as we have members who believe that it is our task to keep the Church of Jesus Christ "pure," that illness, of which Michael speaks, is still with us.

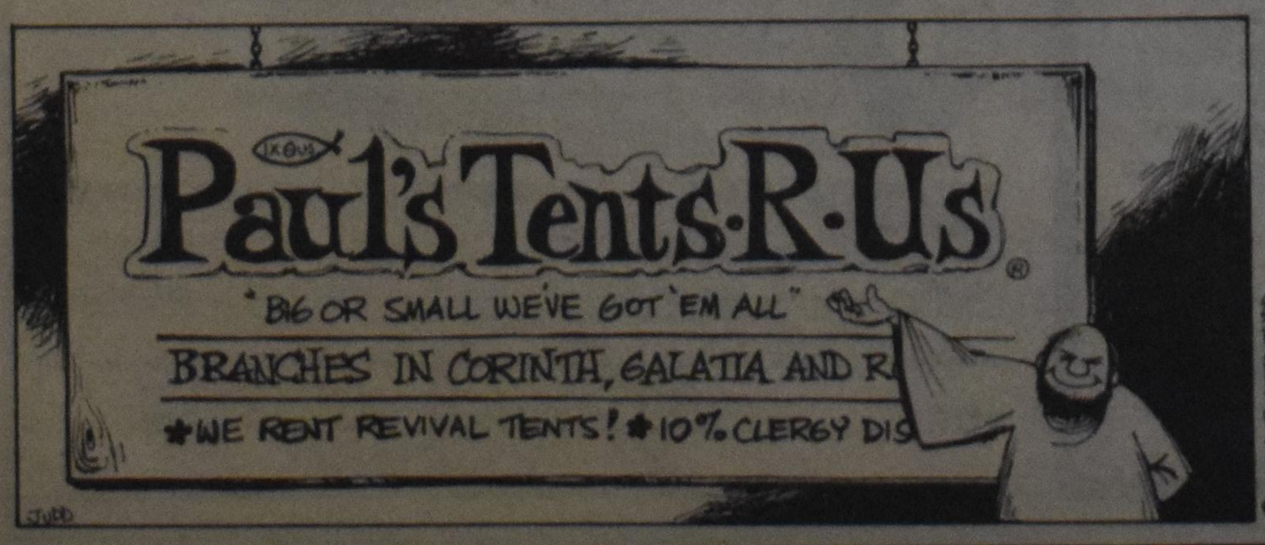
Thank you Michael for speaking out, for exposing the evil for what it is.

Our hearts go out to you and your parents for the pain you had to suffer. May God, who knows, bless you.

Bouwe D. Bergsma
St. Catharines, Ont.

BEYOND BELIEF





Education

InterVarsity students to study in Soviet Union

MADISON, Wis. (IVCF) — An agreement between InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and two universities in the Soviet Union will bring college students from those two countries together this summer in the Ukrainian Republic.

Kiev State University and Kiev State Pedogogical Institute will each host a delegation of 20 InterVarsity students from July 1-31, 1989.

InterVarsity's director of international relations, Dan Harrison, recently returned from Kiev, where he made the final arrangements for the cultural and academic exchange. "As far as I am aware," he notes, "this is the first time a Soviet university has entered into an exchange agreement with a Christian organization."

The purpose of the exchange is to promote good relationships between Soviet and American young people, as well as to strengthen the principles of the final act of the Helsinki Accord and Soviet-American summit agreement in Geneva regarding cultural exchanges. This program also demonstrates increased levels of trust and openness brought about by *glasnost*.

The American students will be matched up with English-speaking Soviet students. They will stay together in university dormitories, share meals together, take classes together, and participate in cultural events together.

"There are lots of opportunities for American students to study in the Soviet Union right now," Harrison stresses. "Why shouldn't some of them be Christians?"

Harrison expects the program to continue into the 1990s as InterVarsity continues to encourage Christian students to study abroad.

Calvin professor wins scholar's award

C.C. staff

Dr. Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen received the annual Christian Scholar's award this year from the scholarly academic journal, *Christian Scholar's Review*. Van Leeuwen is a professor of interdisciplinary studies in the philosophy department of Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Van Leeuwen received the award for her journal article, "Psychology's 'Two Cultures': A Christian Analysis." The judges picked her article because it best provides "a model of Christian scholarship in exhibiting the relationship of the Christian faith to an academic topic."

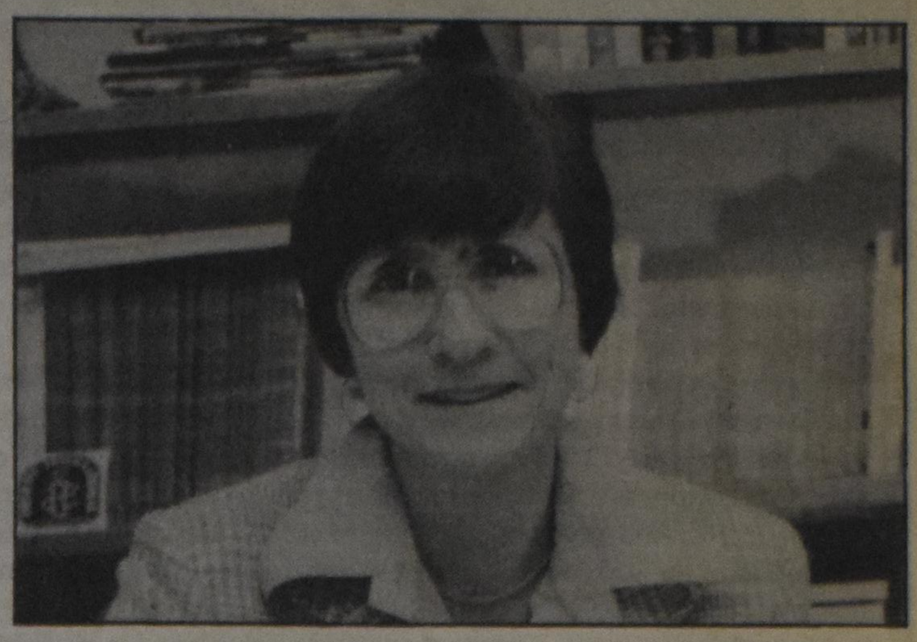


Photo: courtesy Calvin College

Dr. Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen works in her office at Calvin College.

Christian Scholar's Review is published by a group of Christian colleges in the United States, including Calvin College. Van Leeuwen taught psychology for a number of years at York University in Toronto before moving to Grand Rapids to teach at Calvin.

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Abbotsford wins basketball title

C.C. staff

The men's basketball team of Abbotsford Christian Secondary School won the Class A high school championship in British Columbia in exciting post-season tournament play in Kamloops.

To win the title they needed to defeat the first-, second-, and third-seeded teams in Class A, which consists of schools with fewer than 75 boys enrolled. On Thursday night of the tournament week they defeated Fort St. James 96-93, on Friday they defeated Princeton 97-77, and the final game with St. Thomas Aquinas ended 73-69.

In the last game Abbotsford quickly fell behind 17-4 due to the single-handed effort of St. Thomas' six foot ten inch centre. But coach Keith Stewart changed the defence, double-teaming the centre. Abbotsford centre Andrew Jansen was selected to the all-star team, and Vince Van Dyk made the second all-star team.

The season was supposed to be a rebuilding year for the school, since the team was extremely young, with four Grade 10 and four Grade 11 players. At one point in the season the team's win-loss record was 5-12. A feature of the team's play is that all 10 players get major playing time each game because the team always uses a full-court defence.

"Not many of you should become teachers"
James 3:1

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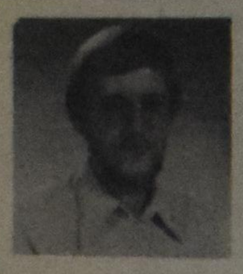
Entertainment



MEDIA SCAN

Henry Knoop

Spectatorism via the tube

Brace yourself for what promises to be another long spring. The Stanley Cup playoffs have begun, the Blue Jays and Expos are back for another season, and CFL football is a few short weeks away. Just when you thought the regular season programming on television had run its course, the major networks have hit upon another way to keep you tuned in: sports.

Now don't get me wrong; there's nothing wrong with (most) sports per se, but one look at my weekly TV guide tells me there's a problem. There's too much to see, and consequently, too many temptations to watch.

Temptations to watch?

You got it. The excitement of playoff hockey, along with the return of major league baseball after a long winter, is just too much of a carrot for a lot of people. Its not difficult to spend four or five nights a week in front of the tube this time of year. Unfortunately as we do so, we get more than a few hours of sports entertainment — we get caught up in spectatorism.

Disservice to self

Spectatorism basically means that we get caught up in watching sports, as opposed to playing sports ourselves. There's nothing wrong with being a spectator. Just as my kids need me on the sidelines to cheer them on in soccer, or in the stands for hockey games, so teams need fans to cheer them on. It helps them to do their best. Our presence as supporters helps them to be the best they can be as players.

The problem with spectatorism is that we spend so much time watching and supporting others, that we do ourselves a disservice. We lose perspective on the valuable gift of time. We spend time in front of the television set at the expense of a host of other things we should be doing instead. In so doing we stagnate our own development.

In that respect watching sports on television is much like watching game shows. Most people like to play games, and the main reason for the popularity of game shows is that viewers play along at home, matching their wit and skill alongside television contestants. We experience vicariously the thrill of winning and the disappointment of losing.

The difference in watching professional sports, however, is that most viewers know they don't come close to matching the skill and finesse of the competitors. Our involvement is minimized to that of appreciative viewers. And to some extent there's nothing wrong with that. I can appreciate the play of a Wayne Gretzky, Mario LeMieux, or Tony Fernandez as well as the next guy.

The trouble with watching sports on the tube four or five nights a week is that we fool ourselves into believing that we are not doing anything harmful — on the contrary, we're supporting a team. But at what cost?

Time passes

When it comes down to it, the issue here is the same as it has been all television season long. Its inherent in the medium. The issue is time, specifically the amount of time spent viewing television. As parents we restrict television time for our youngsters because we know they need time to develop properly in many other areas, whether that be playing music, reading books, doing homework, participating in sports, or just playing with their friends. If we don't, we needlessly restrict development of academic, artistic, and social skills. Our children become one-dimensional.

Are we practising what we preach? Is that ball game or hockey game keeping us from attending to chores around the house, meetings at church or school, visiting with friends and shut-ins, or playing with our children? While sitting in front of the tube every night watching sports, are we inadvertently watching our world go by as well?

Henry Knoop teaches English and media studies at Durham Christian High in Bowmanville, Ont.

Cinema summaries

Marian Van Til

The Dream Team

Rated PG
Stars Michael Keaton, Christopher Lloyd, Peter Boyle, Stephen Furst, Dennis Bousikaris
Directed by Howard Zeiff

Picture four institutionalized New Jersey mental patients setting out to a Yankees game with their doctor — the first field trip ever for the patients. Picture the doctor being mugged and hospitalized after he witnesses a murder in an alley. What will happen to this unstable quartet after they are inadvertently abandoned in the unsafe big city?

The answer is that these men who share group therapy sessions build on that reluctant sharing and become a real team, a sort of mini community against the world.

Only one patient, Albert Ianuzzi (Stephen Furst), sees what happened to Dr. Weitzman (Dennis Bousikaris), and he can't talk — or rather, he can only speak "televisionese." He's so timid that he has retreated into a video world in which baseball is the only thing he knows how to love.

The others have their own problems, to put it mildly: Jack McDermott (Peter Boyle), a former ad executive, has a messiah complex; obsessively fastidious college president Henry Sikorsky (Christopher Lloyd) believes he's a doctor; and Billy Caulfield (Michael Keaton) is a high-strung time bomb who has devised an amazing history of feats for himself, presumably because his real life has been so unspectacular, except in its failures.

While these maladies and their manifestations may not be totally believable from the point of view of real-life psychiatry, they are plausible enough on screen to win viewers over.

Perhaps unrealistically, all four men are, underneath their considerable handicaps, kind-hearted souls. And they each begin to realize that fact about the others as they are pitted against the streets of New York, hospital employees, their own institution and the police (two of whom are responsible for the murder and are now out to get the witness, Dr. Weitzman).

No doubt some will criticize the film's humourous presentation of the mentally ill. Obviously, mental illness is not funny. But some of its manifestations are, and this film is not afraid to acknowledge that. *The Dream Team* never derives its humour from belittling or ridiculing the *personhood* of these disturbed men. In fact, we get to see glimpses of the former lives of three of the men — glimpses which encourage us to be totally sympathetic. Some of those who run the mental institution, however, come off less well. The movie paints them as patronizing, rather bureaucratic and none too selfless.

The Dr. Weitzman character is clearly an exception. The calamity which has befallen him makes the "dream team" realize how much they appreciate him; and, as they actually *are* able to cope on the streets of New York and rescue him, how far he has aided them along the road to recovery.

Though this movie doesn't engage the brain much, it expertly tickles the funny bone. The ensemble acting is superb; each actor knows exactly how to play off the others. Though not motivated by Christian principles, this is, for the most part, sweet-souled entertainment which advocates camaraderie and team work for and between all of us, wherever we are on the sanity road.

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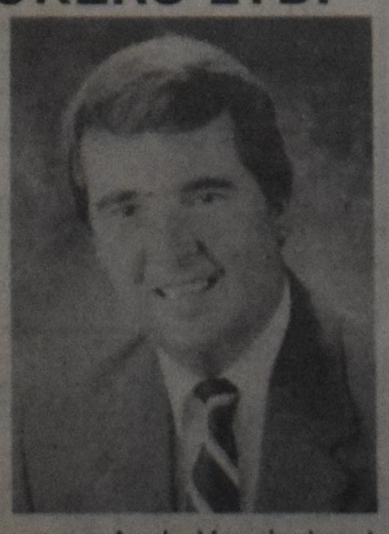
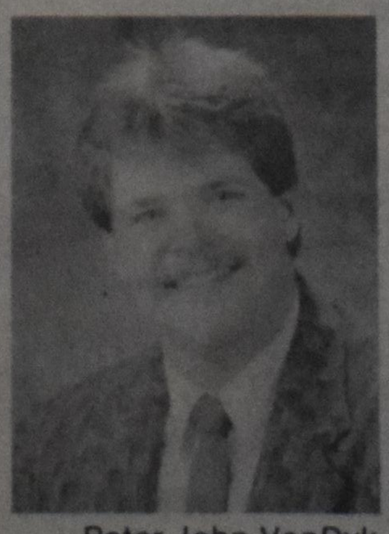

Andy Vanderhout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Church

Marian Van Til, page editor

De Vries co-ordinates government pastoral services

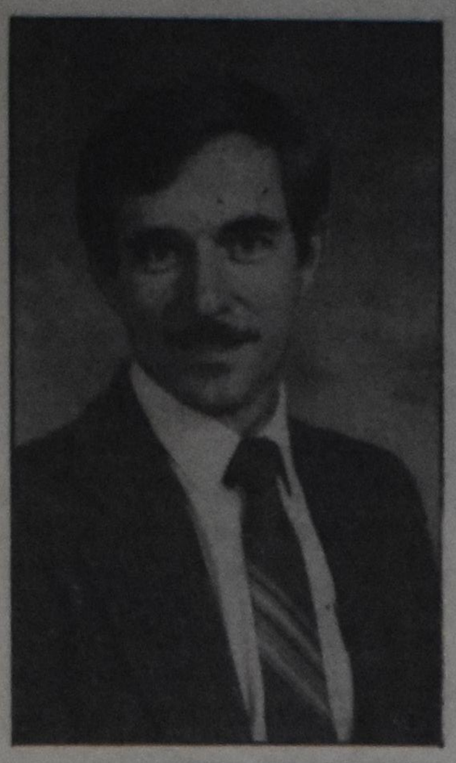

Photo: courtesy John De Vries

John De Vries, regional pastor co-ordinator, Windsor-Woodstock, Ont. region.

A Christian Reformed pastor celebrated his recent appointment as regional co-ordinator for Ontario government pastoral services during an interfaith worship service last month in London, Ont.

Rev. John De Vries, 44, was appointed by the Ontario ministry of community and social services last December to co-ordinate 15 chaplains employed mostly in hospitals and prisons in the Windsor to Woodstock, Ont. region.

During the Sunday service at First Christian Reformed Church, government representatives and clergy addressed a 100-member congregation about De Vries' dual role as civil servant and pastor.

"The spiritual dimension in our programs is a real one," said Murray Hamilton, regional representative of the Ontario ministry of correctional services.

Administrators realize social programs alone "are not enough" as many clients "struggle with the meaning of life," said Hamilton.

In a short meditation on Romans 14:1-8, Rev. Carl Tuyl mandated De Vries and his chaplain colleagues to be "peacemakers by helping people make their decisions before the Lord."

Encouraging pastoral care

In addition to his supervisory role, De Vries will also channel the implementation of a new social services mandate, encouraging hospitals and rest homes to provide pastoral care for the aged.

New and existing pastoral care programs will be assessed by De Vries with the help of other members from Ontario faith communities.

A regional inter-faith committee of Moslem, Greek Orthodox, Jewish and Christian pastors meets regularly to co-ordinate spiritual care in the region, said De Vries in an earlier interview.

As a Reformed pastor, De Vries said he sees his role as a "missionary for spiritual care."

The first few months in his new position "opened a whole new world" to him, said De Vries, who has an office at the London-based CPRI (Children's Psychiatric Research Inst.).

"Rather than me selling [pastoral care], they came to me asking for help. It was a pleasant surprise."

Before accepting his new post De Vries served in two earlier chaplain positions at the Canadian Penitentiary Service in Laval, Quebec, and since 1986, at the psychiatric hospital in St. Thomas, Ont.

De Vries has also served Christian Reformed churches in Regina, Sask., and Fruitland, Ont.

Two other Christian Reformed ministers currently serve as regional co-ordinators of pastoral services. Dirk Habermehl was appointed in 1985 and works in the Peterborough, Ont., region; Siebert Van Houten has worked in Whitby, Ont., since 1984.

A sense of justice

De Vries said CRC pastors are recognized "to bring a sense of justice" to the job. We don't use "a crusader approach" but see clients "as potentially children of God."

As government employees, the CRC pastors have a mandate to respect every client's constitutional rights to access to the faith community of their choice.

The Ontario Pastoral Services Program started in response to the 1979 decision to move institutionalized mental health patients into [apartments in] their home towns.

Clients are referred to their home town clergy after being released from the hospitals. The program now also facilitates the return into the community of prisons inmates and clients from other institutions.

The pastoral services $1.2 million annual budget is funded by the Ontario ministry of social services and has a 60 per cent success rate, said Rev. Don Peake, provincial co-ordinator of pastoral services.

"We make the linkage; only and after that it is up to the local faith group to continue the relationship," said Peake.

Lausanne conference to address global changes

MANILA, Philippines (WEIS) — Churches and Christian leaders need to better understand the challenges which have transformed the face of today's world, contends Dr. Leighton Ford, chairperson of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization (LCWE). The International Congress on World Evangelization, to be held from July 11 through 20, he says, will attempt to provide that understanding and challenge Christians to intensified evangelistic outreach.

That Congress, Lausanne II in Manila, is to be held in the Philippines International Convention Center. It comes 15 years after the first such evangelization congress which was held in Lausanne, Switzerland. "The world in which we are called to witness today differs significantly from the world of 15 years ago when the first historic Lausanne Congress was held," contends Ford. "The changes and new challenges which have emerged in that time must be explored and understood if we are to have effective global outreach."

Prominent among the political changes which have taken place since the last evangelization congress, Ford stated, are those in China and the Soviet Union. He points out that, in 1974, China seemed to be closed to the outside world. "Despairing Christian leaders were understandably despondent over the prospects for the church," he suggests. "In the past 10 years, however, we have come to realize that one of the great spiritual revivals in history was occurring."

In addition, he points out, the more than 5,000 Chinese evangelical churches outside of mainland China have become a dominant force in world evangelization and are poised to send out their own missionaries.

The advent of President Gorbachev and implementation of his new policies, Ford says, forces a reappraisal of attitudes and strategy. "It has yet to be demonstrated," he admits, "that *glasnost* will bring permanent results to the churches, but signs are hopeful."

Ford adds that the reception received last year by Evangelist Billy Graham during his preaching visits to the Soviet Union "has contributed to rising expectations." It is expected, he says, that a number of Soviet Christian leaders will be participants in the Manila congress. The religious changes which have occurred present special challenges to the church, maintains Ford.

An often overlooked challenge, he suggests, is that of reaching some "restricted nations" with the Christian message. "More than 80 countries currently restrict or bar traditional missionary activity," states Ford. "It is important that we display sensitivity in our dealings with those nations, but the church must be faithful to the commission to take the gospel of Christ to all people. He maintains that recent developments in Eastern Europe raise hope for relaxation of restrictions there, adding, "But repression is still a discomfiting reality in much of the world."

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Vacation Issue 1989

Photo: Peter Tasker

Goldstream Park, Victoria.

Will your vacation spot be there in 2001?

We must act now to conserve habitats, say environmentalists

Marian Van Til

It may come as a surprise to know that 90 per cent of the people in Canada take part in some form of wildlife-related activity, according to surveys conducted by Environment Canada in 1981 and 1987.

The most recent survey shows that 3.6 million Canadians take trips each year primarily to enjoy wildlife through such activities as birdwatching and photography. Two-thirds of all Canadians feed, watch, or photograph wildlife around their homes and cottages. Clearly, most Canadians appreciate the natural wonders and wildlife this vast country has to offer.

However, "to appreciate wildlife in the future, we must act now to conserve it," warns the Canadian Wildlife Associates. For decades, the ecosystem has been eroding and plants and animal species have been dying — through carelessness, human ignorance of delicate natural balances, neglect due to a heavy emphasis on industry and development, an attitude that the natural resource supply is in exhaustible, and environmental mismanagement because proper pollution control was not seen to be "cost effective."

We must be acutely aware that *we* are part of the environment, says Steve Price of World Wildlife Fund Canada. "We have to go beyond just saving tigers and elephants," he notes. "To protect the genetic resources that are essential for human survival, we must protect the full spectrum of natural diversity, with healthy populations surviving in a variety of habitats."

Paul Griss of the Canadian Nature Federation also emphasizes a human connection to the plant and animal environment: "The health of wildlife populations is a key indicator of the health of the environment as a whole; an endangered species like a beluga whale is telling us something about the state of the entire ecosystem, which we humans also share."

That, say Griss and other environmentalists, is why it is urgent that we begin to view the whole world as our own back yard. Canadians should be concerned about the oil spill off the Alaskan coast, but also about, e.g., the slashing and burning of the "remote" South American rain forests.

Economic factors

While most people simply go out and enjoy nature, others owe their livelihoods to it — and to the people who just "go out and enjoy it." Canadians spent $4.2 billion on wildlife-related activities in 1981, including everything from binoculars to hunting licences and outdoor clothing.

Though figures are still being analyzed, the 1987 survey shows a significant percentage of increase in that amount. In addition, wildlife activities put $2 billion annually into provincial and federal tax coffers.

The survey uncovered two other trends: fewer Canadians now hunt; and "non-consumptive" activities such as photography and birdwatching are on the increase. A 1987 Decima poll which asked respondents to rank environmental issues in terms of importance re-enforced that information. In it, 67 per cent ranked "protecting wildlife" at the top of the list.

That information combined with the fact that the number of sport hunters in Canada is decreasing is likely to reopen the old debate about how government wildlife agencies spend their money — "which is now directed largely to game species sought by Canada's hunters," says Canadian Wildlife Associates.

Paul Griss asserts, "There is no more telling indictment than the millions of dollars spent to produce moose and deer, while the same agencies have to scrounge for a few dollars to work on endangered species."

Changing traditional spending habits in government agencies could turn out to be a long, arduous process, environmentalists fear. But they are convinced it must be done, and it seems that more and more Canadians agree. "To prevent a rash of future extinctions ... there is a need for a broader approach to managing threatened wildlife," explains Canadian Wildlife Associates.

Interested in stewardship

Perhaps fortunately, half of the money spent on wildlife conservation in Canada comes from non-government organizations who, on the whole, seem to be able to move more quickly and look toward the future more clearly than most government agencies.

Monte Hummel, president of the World Wildlife Fund Canada, is convinced that "Canadians are prepared to pay a tremendous amount to protect their environment. They want to spend more than government is now doing, and they are willing to give millions of dollars to other organizations to make sure the job gets done."

Canadian wildlife and conservation organizations are promoting a "stewardship concept" with which Reformed Christians will be comfortable. These groups say we must be stewards, not exploiters, of the earth. And while conservationists who are non-Christians may advocate that approach for Earth's own sake — and for their own — Christians have the additional and important motivation of knowing that the earth is the Lord's and it is *his* handiwork we're nurturing (or destroying).

One group in Ontario that specifically emphasizes earth stewardship is the Natural Heritage League, a co-ordination body for conservation agencies. The league has granted "stewardship awards" to 350 landowners who have made voluntary commitments to protect threatened natural habitats.

Individuals count

The majority of income for wildlife conservation comes from individuals. One widely used fund-raising technique is the sale of wildlife art donated by sympathetic artists. Robert Bateman, George McLean, Glen Loates and others have supported dozens of environmental organizations through the sale of original artwork, prints and cards.

Michael Dumas of Gallery on the Lake, Buckhorn, Ontario, has, through the sale of his art, singlehandedly raised $5 million to assist endangered wildlife. In one year, he estimated that 60 per cent of his work was donated to wildlife causes. "When you work very close to your subjects, and you learn about the problems of wildlife in their environment, how can you not help?" he asks.

Corporate concern growing

Though changing attitudes towards the environment and righting environmental wrongs can be a slow process, there are discernable results. For example, one of the projects for which Dumas' art work raised funds helped reintroduce wild turkeys to their former range. Says Dumas, "Starting from nothing, we now have a substantial population of wild birds." That has given him great satisfaction.

Wildlife artists have been credited with greatly increasing public awareness of the effect of environmental problems on wild animals. Conservationists hope this will translate into improved protection, and the program to enlist the help of landowners is an important part of that.

Continued on page 10 ...

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July 2 - July 7	*Grades 4, 5, & 6
July 9 - July 14	Grades 7, 8 & 9
July 17 - July 21	Grades 4, 5 & 6
July 23 - July 28	Grades 7, 8 & 9
July 30 - August 4	**Special Camps
August 6 - August 11	Grades 4, 5 & 6
August 13 - August 18	Grades 7, 8 & 9
August 20 - August 25	Grades 10, 11 & 12
August 28 - Sept. 2	Canoe trip

Grades listed are those to be entered in September.

* The **Wilderness** and **Special Needs** Camps will operate the whole week, whereas there will be two **Munchkin** Camps. The first will start on Sunday evening and end Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. The second camp will start on Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. and end on Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m.

For brochures and family camping registration please contact:

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Cambridge, Ontario N1R 5S5
Telephone: (519) 623-4860

"A Ministry of the Reformed Church in America"

Vacation Issue 1989

Will your vacation spot be there?

... continued from page 9.

Though individuals like you and me are making a major impact, one should not assume that there is *no* environmental concern among corporations and businesses.

Direct corporate involvement has protected the habitat for two endangered plant species in Nova Scotia's Tusket River valley. There, the Bowater Mersey Paper Company signed a low-cost lease with the Nature Conservancy of Canada which is working to ensure that those plants do not become extinct.

On Vancouver Island, habitat for the endangered marmot has been preserved through land donations by MacMillan Blodel.

Canada Life Insurance Company's donations have helped the recovery of white pelican populations in the prairie provinces. And Union Gas in Ontario has helped fund programs to preserve the Carolinian forests in the southern part of that province.

What you can do

Business owners or executives who are part of larger corporations could consider participating in next year's National Wildlife Week as an advertiser, suggests Canadian Wildlife Associates. (And employees of such companies can urge their employers to make donations to environmental causes.) Such participation would let a company's customers know that it is concerned about Canada's wildlife. Both employers and employees can obtain information from: Canadian Wildlife Associates, 145 Columbia St. West, Waterloo, ON N2L 3L2.

For many of us Reformed Christians, donations to "charitable causes" go almost exclusively to the (important) work of local churches, Christian schools and various Christian organizations. Perhaps we could consider expanding that, even if for only a few dollars, to include the support of a group or two which is concerned about being stewards of creation.

Elsewhere on this page is a list of representative wildlife conservation groups active in Canada, to which readers may want to write for more information.

If all of us Christians strive to increase our awareness of the environmental suffering we human beings are inflicting on our planet, and — in whatever way we can — help to reverse that ravaging, we may be assured that we will be living in and with our environment as our Creator intended.

And we'll never run out of beautiful, healthy vistas and fascinating wildlife to observe when we go out and vacation in *God's* world.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION GROUPS IN CANADA
A Consumer's Guide to Wildlife Organizations

ORGANIZATION	MEMBERS	ANNUAL FEES	ANNUAL BUDGET	COMMENTS
CANADIAN WILDLIFE FEDERATION 1673 Carling Ave. Ottawa K2A 3Z1	550,000 Members & Supporters	$20	$7,000,000	Provincial affiliation with angler and hunter groups. Distributes International Wildlife; publishes Biosphere (French-language), Ranger Rick, Big Back Yard. Advocacy on freshwater fisheries, World Conservation Strategy, endangered species. Distributes 75,000 Wildlife Week school kits.
CANADIAN NATURE FEDERATION 453 Sussex Drive Ottawa K1N 6Z4	20,000	$25	$1,500,000	123 nature group affiliates with membership of 200,000. Publishes Nature Canada; operates bookshop. Advocacy on national parks, northern natural areas, endangered species, forestry policies. Education programs.
WORLD WILDLIFE FUND CANADA 60 St. Clair Ave. East Toronto M4T 9Z9	25,000 Supporters	based on donation	$4,000,000	Publishes Annual Report, Working for Wildlife newsletter. Has raised $15 million for endangered species projects, regional conservation strategies, wildlife toxicology research, international projects. Education program in 6000 classrooms.
NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA 794A Broadview Ave. Toronto M4K 2P7	3500	$25	$1,800,000	Field representatives in B.C., Alberta, Quebec. Publishes Annual Report, Newsletter. Acquisition of 32,000 hectares; $30 million raised. Promotes voluntary stewardship. Establishing conservation data centre in Quebec and other provinces.
WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA 1704 Carling Ave. Ottawa K2A 1C7	none	none	$4,000,000	Publishes annual report, Habitat Quarterly, technical reports. $18 million contributed to 160 projects; raises funds through sale of habitat stamps and prints. Report on Status of Wildlife Habitat in Canada. Private land stewardship programs, wetlands, Pacific estuaries, forestry practices.
GREENPEACE 578 Bloor St. West Toronto M6G 1K1	60,000	$30	$1,700,000	Offices in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver. Publishes Greenpeace Magazine. Advocacy on commercial whaling, toxic emissions, global atmosphere, disarmament, public environmental awareness.
DUCKS UNLIMITED 1190 Waverley St. Winnipeg R3T 2E2	100,000 Supporters	$20 (minimum donation)	$44,000,000	340 local fund raising committees. 75% of budget from American affiliate. Publishes Conservator. Developed 883,000 hectares of habitat for waterfowl production. Cooperative agreements with 6000 landowners. Current emphasis on small marshes, Great Lakes shoreline, B.C. estuaries.
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION 100 Bloor St. East Toronto M4W 1B9	2500	$25	$325,000	Six regional chapters in B.C., Prairies, Ontario. Publishes Borealis. Advocacy on new national parks, marine parks, wilderness areas, legislation and policy protecting park wildlife.

Catching "norms" in Algonquin Park

Herman de Jong

We are camping in Algonquin Park: three sons, their families, and "Opa" and "Oma." It was blood-hot — best to sit in the shade of the tall pine trees and not move around too much. But that's not easy when there are six grandchildren around. They play on their own a lot, but they also come with their weals and woes to Opa and Oma: they need a glass of juice. Or a cookie. Or, for the oldest grandson, Jimmy, *two* cookies. (He eats a bit faster than the girls. He's more persistent, too.) He calls himself the Cookie Monster.

The little guy is also inquisitive. For instance: Why is Opa's belly bigger than Dad's? He noticed that one of his aunts, who was also camping with us despite a well-advanced pregnancy, had a belly just like Opa's. He poked a stick at Opa's belly-button and inquired, "You getting a baby, too?" He's got a lot to learn.

Then he came by again, not looking for cookies this time. His little feet threw up puffs of fine, blackish sand. As he sweated, the dust stuck to his skin, making him look like a little black boy. But just before bedtime, he became a little Frisian again. The first couple of days we camped, his mother washed him 10 times a day. Cleanliness is one of her fine qualities. But she gave up ....

Very important question

"Opa?" His sand-blackened hand rested on my beautifully tanned knee. Two sky-blue eyes looked at the picture in my book — a young man with muscle-bulging shoulders holding a well-endowed woman in his arms. (Such romance is past tense for me but I had run out of reading material and borrowed this one from a daughter-in-law who still believes that reading such books will make her a better marriage partner. I should ask my son about that.) The little boy looked up at me again and discovered that I was not sleeping (this time). He said once more, "Opa?"

As he pronounced the word, twice, his brain was in high gear trying to formulate a neat sentence with as few words as possible. (Why back in his lineage, there was a *Grunniger* farmer who, when he spoke, shocked his wife and children into such jubilation that they prepared a feast to honour the occasion.)

"Opa?" Again no sentence was forthcoming. I prodded, "Why don't you say it, *joggie?*" Ha! Then it came. His hand pointed to the camping area where his dad and his two uncles were chasing the heat away with Molson Golden. (One of them had brought a case; it's the only time of year they drink the stuff, so they tell me ....)

"Opa, my dad and those two men were talking about norms. What's a norm? I don't know what a norm is."

He looked at me as if to say, "There, old man, you better answer me." He walked around my leg, stood between my knees, putting a hand on each knee and leaving warm, smudged impressions. When I didn't answer quickly enough, he patted my knees impatiently.

I thought I had better put my romance away. No more fervent kissing and tender embraces in the woods, the woman's limpid eyelashes trembling as the muscle man brought a ripe cherry to her already red lips. Here was a little boy whose mind needed to be formed. That's what Opas are for; he knew it instinctively.

I put my book on the pine needles. Of course, that was wrong. My grandson shook his head, picked up the book, looked disgustedly at the suggestive picture, and carefully laid the book on the picnic table. (He comes from a neat family in which toys litter the floor only during playtime.) Lifting the book, he couldn't help but see his own dusty arm. "Boy, I am dirty; right, Opa?" he sighed.

There's one!

"OK, let's look for norms," I said. I took his small hand in mine and we went down the path to the lake. Passing the camping area, I saw my three grown-up boys talking vehemently. They were on holidays and talking about norms! Why didn't they go fishing? But one is a deacon, another an elder, and the third has a university education. On top of that, they're second generation Dutch Canadians, and their Dutch-instilled

Continued on page 11 ....

Community
CHRISTIAN REFORMED
Church of Meadowvale
2630 Inlake Court
Mississauga, Ontario L5N 2A7

Dear Young People:

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The week of training is from **June 26-31** and the 4 weeks of Daycamp is from **July 3rd to the 28th.** We would love to have your help for the whole time or for one 2-week session (plus the training).

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... continued from page 10.

hankering to debate matters endlessly is still battling the Canadian tendency to take things as they come. Norms and Molson Golden ... for Pete's sake!

"Are norms in the lake, Opa?" my grandson asked. "Do we have to go in the canoe?" "No, my boy," I explained, "We just have to wade in the water a bit because that's where they grow."

"Opa is not kidding?" He looked up at me. (Shoot, he's getting to know me! Another year and I won't be able to pull his leg anymore.)

But I yelled, "Ha! There's one!" A tiny frog tried to hop out of grasp of my eager hand. It succeeded, too, because in the yukky mud I felt something wrigglin between my toes which made me jump to safer ground.

The frog let out a big burp and the little boy exclaimed, with a look of fright, "Opa, what was that!" But I was too busy going after the frog. Finally I held it in my fist. "Now then, here's your norm," I said with a smile.

"But that's a little frog, that's not a norm," he countered.

"Jimmy, have you never heard that a young horse is called a colt and a young cow a calf?" I asked. "A young frog we call a norm. You want to take it and show your dad?"

He ran ahead of me, proud as a peacock; or rather, a peachick. "I've got a norm! I've got a norm! Look, Daddy! Look, Uncle Tom, Uncle Jeanord (he can't say the "L") I've got a norm!"

No more "make believe"?

Gingerly he opened his little hand and the norm jumped. (Norms usually do that when they're held firmly for a little while.)

Did I ever get lectured from my son, Jimmy's father. I should have explained "norms" realistically, he said. I told him he was crazy. How do you explain norms to a three-year-old?

According to my son, that is a very simple matter. A norm is at work when you run to Mommy and wriggle your knees, and she says, "Jimmy, you have to go to the bathroom." It is to eat one sandwich without peanut butter. It is not to use bad, bad words.

Jimmy listened intently and said he liked his norm better. My son looked at me darkly and muttered, "See, you've got him all mixed up. Yesterday you told him that the moose that walked between our tents was a North American giraffe — with a shorter neck than regular giraffes because the leaves are closer to the ground! Give things the right labels, Dad!"

Oh boy, it's not easy to be an Opa. No more "make believe." I felt kind of sad; but not for long. The camp host came by and asked whether we had had a good evening. Then he said, "By the way, sir, the bylaw to keep pets on a leash is still in effect." I stammered that we had no dogs in our camp. He smiled, put his sandals on the pedals of his bicycle and said, "How about that pet moose I saw walking around your lot yesterday?"

It became a fine camping day after all. The sun blazed forth. But that had been the norm for the last four weeks.

Herman de Jong lives in Jordan Station, Ont.

Safety concerns for summer time

TORONTO (MCCR) — From fuels to pools, the paraphernalia of summer demands careful handling, especially when children are around.

"Back yards are full of potential hazards at this time of year," says Bob Clendining, director of fuels safety for the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations (MCCR) which is gearing up for a major summer safety campaign. "The key word here is "potential."

"We urge parents to use the resources available to them to learn how best to keep their children safe this summer."

As a start, Clendining suggests families become familiar with safety rules for handling such common fuels as propane and gasoline. Brochures on these topics are available.

As well as promoting careful use of fuels — an area directly legislated by provincial ministries — officials urge parents to brush up on good water safety practices.

A number of organizations can provide information on general water safety and rescue techniques, along with advice on avoiding diving injuries, a widespread concern.

Sources include:

* **The Royal Life Saving Society of Canada.** The society recently produced a "basic water rescue program" called Rescue Smart. A nine-lesson handbook, the program is designed to be taught by parents or other adults and covers such topics as causes of drowning, diving injuries and rescue techniques. The new guidebook costs $10. The society also has a number of brochures available free. Films and videos can be borrowed at no cost. Information, brochures and posters may be obtained at most municipal and YMCA swimming pools.
* **The Canadian Red Cross Society.** The Red Cross operates water safety and swimming courses through municipal pools and other community facilities.
* **The St. John Ambulance Society.** This society is another excellent source of safety information.

Although they are not specifically summer-related programs, child-care and babysitting courses run by St. John Ambulance may also be of interest to parents.

Some other year-round safety concerns and suggested sources of information follow:

* Cribs, children's portable car seats, cradles, pacifiers, clothing flammability, playpens, strollers and toys — contact the product safety branch of Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada.
* Labelling of potentially hazardous products such as those considered toxic, flammable or corrosive is also the responsibility of the federal consumer ministry's product safety branch. Contact them for information about the standard danger symbols children should learn to recognize.
* "Streetproofing" — teaching children how to stay safe from people who would harm them — is a popular topic for community programs. Contact local school officials, police, fire departments, Block Parents or other community groups to find out if there is a program in your area. A local librarian may be able to help find sources of information on other child safety concerns.

OTTAWA (MCCR) — Treasures are often found amid the reclaimed relics sold at flea markets and auctions, but bargain hunters should be sure they're not buying fool's gold.

An old table that seems a "great buy" could turn out to be a waste of money if the wood has been damaged by insects. It's also easy to mistake well-worn, but relatively new merchandise for antiques, unless you're an expert.

"Auctioneers and used goods dealers rarely give refunds," says Dave Mitchell of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations (MCCR). "So, if you find cracks in your table when you get it home, you've found them too late. Always use particular caution when buying second-hand goods, regardless of who is selling them."

Watch out for "antiques"

Careful inspection is generally a simple matter at bazaars and flea markets. If you are buying an appliance, ask to see it working, Mitchell advises. Look around at all the stalls to be sure you're geting the best deal possible.

Don't pay "antique" prices for anything unless you know the item is genuine. Also, keep in mind that real antiques aren't often overlooked by the people selling them.

"Used merchandise dealers generally know the value of antiques these days," Mitchell says. "You're more likely to find a chair that isn't an antique being sold as one than you are to 'discover' a genuine antique chair that no one else has recognized."

Auctions have been gaining popularity in recent years, but consumers who aren't familiar with the selling system can make expensive mistakes. Many buyers arrive at the auction too late, says Mitchell.

"Auctioneers generally hold a preview of their goods before the actual sale begins," he explains. "This is the time to search for items of interest and look them over for damage. It's also the best time to calculate how much you are willing to pay for each article."

Merchandise to be auctioned off is usually given a "lot" number. After inspecting all the goods, jot down the numbers of anything you would like to buy. Make a note of any obvious damage and the maximum amounts you are willing to spend on each item.

With the help of a written record, auction-goers are less likely to buy goods on impulse or offer too much money for merchandise in the excitement of bidding.

Buyers who arrive once the sale has started often bid on items they haven't inspected, risking paying too much for the goods or purchasing damaged merchandise.

Don't bid unless you're willing to buy. Under the Sale of Goods Act, a bid is considered a verbal contract. Once the auctioneer signals the sale has been completed on an item, the highest bidder is legally bound to buy the goods at the price offered.

Get it in writing

When buying expensive second hand items such as cars, motorcycles, boats and similar goods, ask the auctioneer to provide a "certified search" proving there are no liens against the goods.

If a loan is not paid off, the lien-holder has the right to repossess the merchandise even if it has been sold to someone else.

The new owner would have to take the seller to court to get any money back.

As added protection, write down all promises or claims made about used merchandise and get the seller's signature on the note. For example, if a merchant offers a one-month warranty on an appliance, get the promise in writing. If the seller doesn't live up to promises, you may have to go to court for satisfaction, but at least you'll have written evidence to back you up.

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Feature

School life with Amy: integrating the handicapped into Christian schools

Tannie Batelaan

Since 1971 I have been working with developmentally handicapped children. Most of my experience has been and still is with so-called "total care" children. During my first year, I experienced the "old" way of running a pre-school program, complete with coloured smocks (which also had to be worn during outings in the community).

The entire school year we followed the same routine, singing the same songs, drinking and eating the same snacks, and putting together the very same puzzles. If it hadn't been for 20 minutes of crafts during which I was given a free hand, I wouldn't have been able to last till the end of the school year. It was so stifling!

In 1972 I was asked to start a developmental program for what were then called "multiple handicapped children" in the basement of a church. What a challenge! My goal was to enrich the lives of the children with as many real-life experiences as possible and to address their individual needs.

There was a lot of enthusiasm among the *many* volunteers. Many gave of their time! That was the time, during the mid '70s, when funding came about and developmental centres started to sprout up all over the province.

As my job as supervisor became farther removed from working with the children, I took a step back on the so-called "ladder of success" and became a program-teacher instead. Hands on!

When Bill 82, an amendment to the Education Act, which integrated school-aged, developmentally handicapped children into the public school system was passed, I realized that by September 1985 my job would be phased out. Pros and cons of this integration were hotly debated.

When integration came about — segregated classes for the developmentally handicapped students in the public schools — it was painful to experience firsthand that suddenly one was no longer qualified to be a teacher in that setting. The integration involved a change from the ministry of Community and Social Services to the Ministry of Education, and thus an Ontario teachers certificate was required.

At that time I chose to go along with the students as an educational assistant and study towards a "permanent letter of standing" to work with the "trainably retarded." For three years I worked as an educational assistant. Yes, it was good to see how all students benefited from the contact with each other. It was a learning experience for teaching staff and all other school personnel.

Catholic schools respond

But most of the developmentally handicapped students attending the public school in which they were integrated but segregated were bused from all over the city. They could not individually attend their neighbourhood schools.

In my area, the Durham Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board had made a start with mainstreaming special-needs children. In 1987 the first so-called "total care" student was mainstreamed in Port Perry.

This encouraged a particular couple to approach their neighbourhood separate school, requesting admittance of their developmentally handicapped (total care) daughter. Two of their other children already attended this school. Last September I went along as the educational assistant for this student.

Complete mainstreaming has not been achieved, as she was placed at the request of the parents in a Grade 2 setting. The reason for the request was the openness and willingness of that particular teacher to take in Amy as a student. There was much apprehension and also unwillingness and disagreement in regard to this mainstreaming on the part of teaching staff.

Amy is 11 years old and has cerebral palsy and is hydrocephalic. She cannot speak but responds with smiles, sounds, and much body language to those around her. She cannot grasp with her hands, is non-ambulatory and uses a wheelchair with a special insert and tray. She needs special equipment, such as a large inclinemat (wedge), a mat and a jumbo bean-bag chair in order to change her position. She is nearly blind and needs total assistance with feeding, dressing, undressing and personal hygiene, including diaper changing. And as she is not able to hold up her head, roll over or sit up, much lifting is involved.

The 28 second graders, including Amy, have thrived this year! She is very much a part of the class! This year she has been to her very first birthday parties of a classmate and of a Grade 3 student. It has been a tremendous learning experience for *all* teaching staff and school personnel. A few warmed up to Amy quite readily. For others, it was a slow process.

Classmates respond

Attending her home school has enabled Amy to take part in school-celebrated masses and receive religious instruction. Amy has no academic skills, but if during a math session the students work with pennies to learn an addition or subtraction fact, her a.m. or p.m. buddy will sit with her and move around the pennies, his or her hands over Amy's hands. If there is straight paperwork, I try to schedule physiotherapy, a change in position, sensory stimulation activities or plainly catch up with work in one of the centres, such as listening, painting, crafts, etc.

Amy starts her lunch early. It takes about three-quarters-of-an-hour to feed her. At first she ate in the staff room before the teachers had their lunch break. Now she eats in her classroom. Her personal hygiene is carried out in the health room. This room is a multi-purpose room — the school is bursting at its seams. The academic resource teacher, the school nurse, the consultants and many others make use of this room. There has to be great flexibility and give-and-take. It is not ideal, but we have been able to make it work. There is a helping table with a pad to do the diaper changing.

Two monitors — students from Grade 6 and 8 — take turns staying in with Amy during noon hours. Part of the noon hours Amy uses the large wedge to allow her to rest in a prone position. Whenever the weather is favourable, Amy spends the remainder of the noon hour in the school yard with her classmates. If the weather is too cold I change her position and she spends it inside with the monitor.

Continued on page 13 ...

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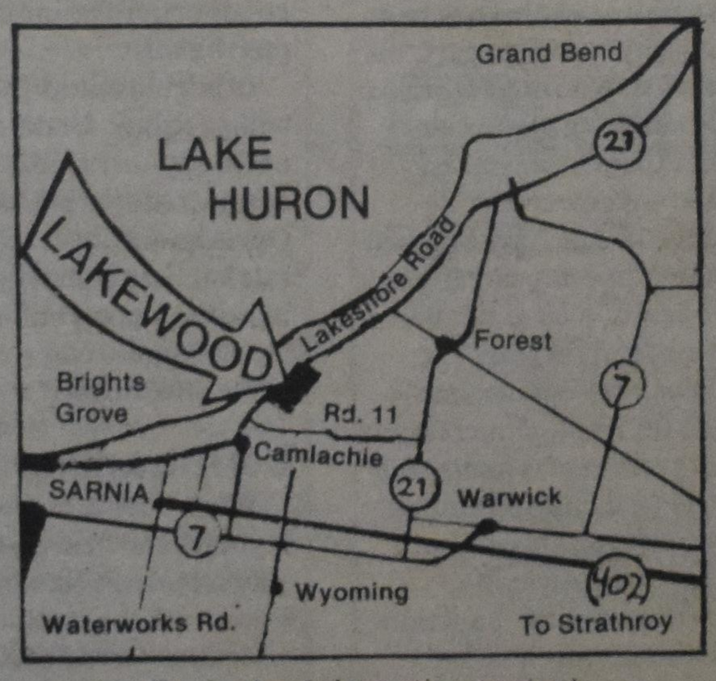

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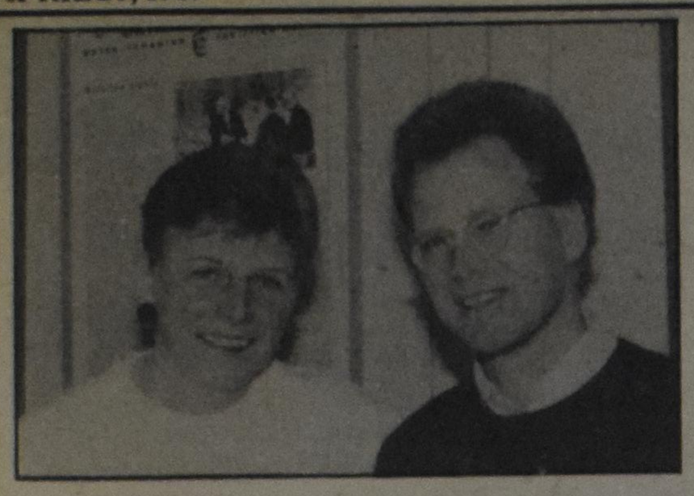

Peter and Marja are

Dear P and M:

My wife has always been a kind of "health nut," but since she became involved in a health club (half-a-year ago) she has gone totally overboard with all kinds of crazy diets. She not only sticks to them herself, but she also forces me and our three children, age 10, 12 and 15, to do the same.

All sweets are banished from the house: sugar, cookies, ice cream, puddings, you name it. Dairy foods are out and replaced by soya bean products, carrot juice and bran — and carrot muffins. We have to eat half-cooked vegetables, natural vitamins (the whole alphabet) and fish, which we all hate. Meat is another taboo.

Our family meals, once a pleasant time of togetherness, have degenerated into battlegrounds of arguments, rebellion and even severe temper tantrums by our youngest son. At times I sneak to McDonald's with the kids and feel like a heel for doing that.

My wife has no allergies or weight problems. She is just convinced that this diet will prevent cancer, of which she is deadly afraid since her dad died of cancer a year ago after much suffering.

We both are strong-willed people. Who should give in? Or is there another solution?

Dear Forced Dieter:

We would like you to notice two things. Your wife has always been health conscious and in the past year she has "gone totally overboard." Parallel to this, her father has suffered from cancer for quite some time and has died in the past year. We cannot help but connect her obsession with health and diet to her father's illness and death.

This may be a stage of grieving. Your wife may need to join a bereavement group or seek some counselling. She seems to be trying to gain some control over sickness and even over death. When we are motivated by fear, we should trust in God on whom we can depend when we experience loss. She needs to let go of what she can't control.

You and the children need to understand that she is suffering and needs sympathy. Have a family conference in which you communicate love and tolerance for her during this painful time. Openly admit that you are sneaking off to McDonald's. Insist on a compromise. Family meals should not be battlegrounds.

Do respect her right to her diet. Ask her to go back to being the "kind of a health nut" with whom you were able to live.

No more conspiracies behind her back.

Openly plan your occasional excursions to fast food restaurants and invite her along for a salad.

The key word is compromise. Both of you should give in. If you can't work it out, seek some short-term family counselling.

We detect a wonderful sense of humour in you. Her alphabet diet may not be your cup of tea, but you seem to know the ABCs of balanced family life.

Dear P and M:

Could the **Calvinist Contact** *people or any of its readers give me some guidance on how to find recourse for a terminated secretary?*

After almost six years as part-time secretary for the... church (with the promise of full-time), I was suddenly told my position was "redundant," only to be asked to instruct someone else.

My feelings are deeply hurt considering I worked in a Christian environment and am a charter member.

Any response you may extend will be very much appreciated!

Dear Terminated Church Secretary:

Your anger and hurt is understandable because a promise of full-time employment was not kept. Your hurt is doubled because this happened to you in a Christian environment and in your own church. We suspect that you are not alone in this situation.

We encourage you to follow the biblical guidelines of Matthew 18. Discuss this injustice with your pastor. Approach the board or committee which hired you and remind them of their promise. Question them about the real reason for terminating your employment since, in actual fact, your position was not redundant. Finally, write your consistory and share your hurt with them.

Failing the above, contact your provincial Ministry of Labour to see if you have any other recourse. A church-related position is subject to the same standards and protections as other occupations. Every church needs to realize that it also comes under the government's directives about hiring, firing and working conditions.

It's a sad day when fellow Christians cannot rely on each other's verbal promises. In your next job make sure that you have an employment contract and see to it that promises are put in writing.

School life with Amy:

... continued from page 12.

Amy takes part in gym activities. When her classmates jog around the gym her buddy pushes the wheelchair. If there are relay-games Amy is helped to take part in an adapted way. Her classmates are quite inventive and creative in thinking of ways in which she can be part of the activities.

Yes, there were "incidents" at first, such as name calling by students from other grades; accidentally bumping into a door as the second graders who push Amy around tend to be shorter than the height of the insert of the wheelchair; occasionally a buddy forgetting that he or she isn't allowed to take the wheelchair on a sloping part of the playground; teasing by some when students realized that Amy was diaper changed; or almost tripping over her as she was lying on the mat. But it is amazing how fast the network of informing the teacher and me of such incidents works! All of her classmates are like mother hens and knights in armour! All these incidents were taken in stride and are part of facilitating Amy's integration.

Hurdles can be overcome

Yes, it is important that support services are in place, and as Amy becomes older and moves on with her class and the gap between academic skills and her ability becomes greater, there will be more need for adaptation in her daily programs. There will be hurdles and obstacles to overcome, but with a supporting school community much can be accomplished.

Personally, I believe that even though Reformed Christian schools do not receive funding from the government for education, when it comes to adaptative devices for special needs children (the funding a responsibility of the ministry of health) there should be no discrimination as to what school the student attends. The Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools can play an important role in looking into these issues and giving guidance to those Christian schools who need this.

Our local Christian school, Knox Christian School, was approached two years ago by Christian parents with a developmentally handicapped child. Their child, a covenant child, was accepted. The first year the school tried to manage with the assistance of volunteers. This year they have hired a permanent part-time educational assistant and make use of some volunteer help. The first year it was a learning experience with ups and downs, but as we learn as a Christian school community, faithful in our mandate, and are willing to tackle what is unfamiliar, eventually there will be more ups than downs.

I am putting an album together with pictures of this year's experience and am willing to share this with whoever is interested in it.

Tannie Batelaan lives in Bowmanville, Ontario.

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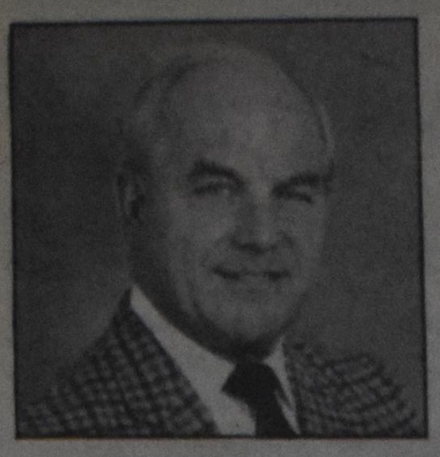

Canadian Church Scene

Jacob Kuntz

Two forms of abuse

Sexual abuse by clerics

In recent years we have been shocked by stories about pastors who were involved in cases of sexual abuse and brought shame upon themselves and their constituencies. We will not so easily forget what is now known about the behaviour of some famous and not-so-famous televangelists and others, and as Protestants we felt ashamed and embarrassed. But the Roman Catholic Church has its problems in this regard, too. What happened in Newfoundland, where children were sexually abused by priests, was just as shocking. The *Catholic Register* of March 18 devoted an editorial to those happenings. We quote:

There is no easy way to say it. Incidents of sexual abuse involving priests are tragic reminders that we are a church of believers — yes, but also sinners with a constant need of God's redemptive power.

The facts have become distressingly familiar. Two priests in St. John's are serving five-year jail terms for sexually abusing children, while another three await trial on similar charges.

Seldom has news related to the church been so intensely covered. Bad news remains a highly marketable commodity. Indeed, some may ask why deal with these matters here? The answer is, we must. There is a need to provide context and comment on a situation that, left untreated by the Catholic press, retains a destructive power.

Because the church expects a higher standard of personal conduct among its ministers, it is especially distressing when some priests, even a handful, fall victim to temptation and serious wrongdoing. At the same time, priests are subject to the same shortcomings that beset society as a whole. Clearly, the human failings of a few, however deplorable, must not be taken as a reflection on an entire institution.

Nonetheless, these incidents have proven to be seriously embarrassing for the entire Christian church. It is particularly deplorable when those we look to for guidance in spiritual matters take advantage of their position of trust for sinful purposes.

Our greatest sympathy and practical support must go to the victims of this sexual abuse and to their families.

At the same time, one hopes the priests who have been found guilty will receive adequate treatment and that, after serving their sentences, they can be rehabilitated.

In this light, one applauds the leadership shown by Bishop John Sherlock of London, who has established a special committee to investigate any future reported cases of sexual abuse by clerics in his diocese. Being prepared to handle this problem as soon as it arises will help limit its effect. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has encouraged all dioceses to set up similar committees with a mix of professionals and clerics. This action will help ensure that the church will operate both justly and with love in future instances of this kind.

Common-law living

In today's society every denomination and almost every congregation struggles with the fact that there are more and more couples who live together "without the benefit of marriage," and who will defend that arrangement on the basis that it allows them to learn to know each other better and will help them to find out whether they are suited for each other.

***Reformed Perspective*, March 1989, contains a short article: "Living out of wedlock — dishonour in marriage" that presents some statistics:**

Statistics Canada (and is it any different in Australia, Europe or the U.S.?) recently reported that a growing number of Canadians are living together without being married. Marriage is no longer held in honour as God meant it to be, but instead marriage is held in dishonour with 487,000 couples living in common-law relationships according to the 1986 census — the latest dates available.

1989 probably sees those numbers significantly increased. That number represented a 37 per cent increase from 1981, compared to a 2.7 per cent rise in the number of married couples.

People in these common-law relationships are relatively young, with more than half the women and 43 per cent of the men under age 30. Between 1981 and 1986 the rate of cohabitation rose markedly in the province of Quebec, from 11 to almost 16 per cent. This was well above the national average of 11.3 per cent, while the province of Alberta had 11.9 and British Columbia 11.6 per cent. The province of Newfoundland had the lowest increase in cohabitation at 5.9 per cent.

The statistics say living common-law is frequently a prelude to marriage in that 46 per cent of men and 43 per cent of women who lived common-law later married their partner. Common-law living as a preparation for marriage — another sign of the times — sadly.

In *Faith Today*, March 1989, Donald N. Bastian, bishop of the Free Methodist Church in Canada, devoted a guest column to the same issue, under the title: "Cohabiting couples — a deeper look." We present the following excerpts:

Must a woman move in with a man to learn whether he keeps his promises? Or how he treats his parents? Must she lay her own virtues on the line to discover whether he has tendencies to violence?

Does a man have to sleep with a woman to find out if she is trustworthy or to learn whether she manages her money well? Must he hang his clothes in the same closet to learn whether she is a caring person?

These common-sense questions notwithstanding, according to more and more people, the answer is yes.

Certainly the number of couples living together unmarried has increased — by 400 per cent between 1970 and 1985.

Common-law living is not new. What is new is the claim that it may be as good as, or even better than, legalized marriage.

The church should not meet this fact with silence. There ought to be open discussion where scripture is consulted, arguments marshalled and facts weighed.

The Christian moral response is not hard to state. "Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterers and all the sexually immoral." (Heb. 13:4). What we can infer from this verse is that within the marriage relationship, sexual intimacy is right and sacred. Anyone who violates the relationship from within marriage (adultery) or without (fornication) is subject to God's judgment.

There is a Swiss proverb: "Marriage is a covered dish." Two people can never know all there is to know about each other before they are married. They can't even afterward. For the committed, marriage is a lifetime of discovery. Character is reflected in a thousand ways and its essential measurement doesn't require a live-in relationship before the big event.

Jacob Kuntz is pastor of First Christian Reformed Church, Kitchener, Ont.

GUEST COLUMNIST

The hardened heart

When I arrived as pastor, George had been singing in the church choir for several years. He rarely missed a Sunday. He had a good voice and the choir appreciated his musical ability. Sunday after Sunday, I could see him off to my left, paying strict attention to the sermon. Naturally, I was pleased. But George was a hypocrite.

One Sunday, after the church service, George chased me four or five miles down a country road before he could come alongside my car and wave me down. I pulled over and stopped. He climbed in beside me and said, "I really like your sermons. You are always saying things that need to be said and should be said. We need a preacher like you."

"So, what's the problem?"

"I am committing adultery," he said straightforwardly. "Do you think I should leave the choir and the church?"

There seemed to be no remorse in his confession, no thought of changing his lifestyle, no intention of asking God's and his wife's forgiveness, no attempt to be faithful to his marriage vows.

There did not seem to be problems within his marriage relationship. George and his wife seemed quite compatible. He loved her as much as a man like he could love. George, however, was lustful. He wanted other women, too.

Since George appreciated my sermons so much, I hoped the Holy Spirit would eventually convict him. Many times over the next few weeks, I prayed that the man would ask to be forgiven and begin living a proper Christian life. But George was intent upon living life as he wanted to live it — not as God wanted him to live it. He left his wife (and a teenage daughter and son) the choir and the church. I never saw him again.

Going your own way

God has given us a will which allows us to go the way *we* want to go. We can despise God and harden our hearts against him if we wish. We can lust after the things of this world. We can rebel against God and do what pleases us. Yet we do so at our own peril, for there is punishment "and judgment to come" for unforgiven sinners (Acts 24:25).

On the membership roll of that same congregation was the name of a man who never attended church. I was told that there had been a time when the man never missed a Sunday service. I wondered why the change. I went to see him.

I was greeted quite cordially and the man told me his story. His wife was living just 10 miles away — with another man. Again, there seemed to be no marital problems. Still, she had found a man physically more attractive and more desirable than her husband. She moved out.

Then, one Saturday afternoon while the man and his two teenage daughters were away, their house burned down. They returned to find only a foundation and smoldering ruins. The man wouldn't admit it but he was blaming God for all his troubles. He hardened his heart against God and his church. He never went to a worship service again.

We cannot blame God for every evil thing that befalls us. Much of it is the result of our own attitudes, our own wilful desires, our own sin. Some live rotten lives because they are rotten in heart. They talk bad because they *are* bad. They swear because their tongues are unclean. They don't like it when they are told that judgment is coming, but it is coming anyway. They may say they can't love a God like ours, but no matter how they talk they are going to meet him and be judged.

Sin dulls sensitivities

It often happens that a man lusts for woman, woman lusts for man. Either way, one cannot sin and remain the same. Every sin makes the sinner that much harder of heart. One may think he or she can sin for a time and give it up, but sin changes the character and dulls the sensibilities as to what is right and what is wrong — sin won't give *you* up. Hardened hearts do not hear the call of God. Hardened hearts sear the conscience so that the sinner doesn't *want* to do right — as in the case of George and the adulterous woman.

George approved of the sermons, yet he resisted making any change in his lifestyle. "He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." (Prov. 29:1).

No sin is so evil, so vile it cannot be taken away and the sinner given a clean slate. Christ's shed blood is the cleansing agent that washes away all sin and stain. Jesus looks down from heaven and watches and listens and knows who will not receive him, whose hearts are hardened against him, who intend to keep living for this world and so condemn themselves.

"Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts." (Hebrews 3:7, 8).

Cecil E. Burridge is a retired Presbyterian pastor who lives in Oro Station, Ont.

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Non-subscribing newlyweds whose wedding announcement with their future address appears in Calvinist Contact will receive a letter offering a first-year subscription for only $15.00! To facilitate matters, we encourage those who request and pay for the wedding announcement to enclose $15.00 and the couple's future address.

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Births

KIELSTRA-BRON:
Peter and Judy are very happy to announce the safe arrival of their third child, a daughter, WENDY JEAN born on Mar. 25, 1989, weighing 8 lbs, 8 oz. She is a precious little sister for David and Brian. Wendy is the fifth grandchild for Mr. and Mrs. John Bron of Mt. Brydges, Ont., and the eighth grandchild for Mr. and Mrs. Ray Kielstra of St. Thomas, Ont. We praise God for this gift of life he has entrusted to our care.
Home address: 93 Manor Rd., St. Thomas, ON N5R 5W1.

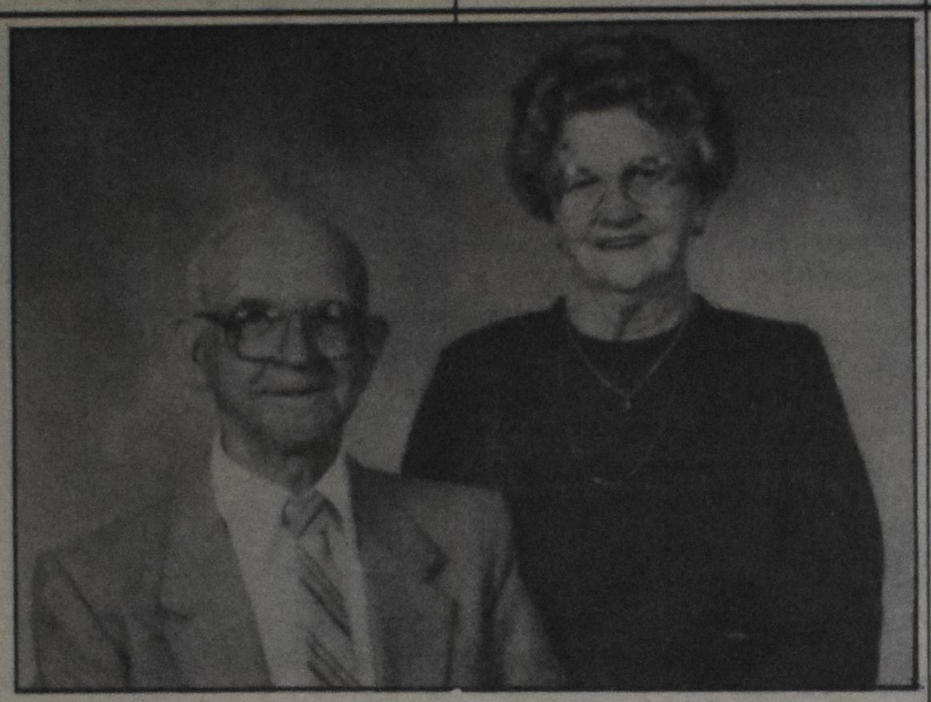
WINTER:
James and Anne Winter (nee Van Duyn) praise the Lord for the birth of a healthy son, SIMON WILLIAM, on Apr. 6, 1989, at 3:07 p.m., weighing 9 lbs, 1 oz. A little brother for Christina Joy. The ninth grandchild for Arnold and Helen Winter of Bradford and the fourth grandchild for Willem and Christina Van Duyn of Mississauga.
Home address: 353 Dixon Boulevard, Newmarket, ON L3Y 5C5.

For Rent

Young Christian woman wishes to let rooms in her house to other young Christian women. Centrally located at Limeridge and West Fifth St. in Hamilton, Ont. Occupancy: July 1, 1989. For details call Sandra at (416) 648-1681 or write to: 26 Daffodil Cres., Ancaster, ON L9K 1C8.

Second floor duplex, two bedrooms; one or two children welcome, no pets. Near shopping area. Stoney Creek. Available immediately. For more information call (416) 662-6368 or (416) 563-4884.

Anniversaries



Congratulations to Rudolf and Grace De Jong (nee Datema) on their 50th wedding anniversary.

1939 April 26 1989
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
With great joy and thankfulness to our heavenly Father for his many blessings and faithfulness, we hope to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents

RUDOLPH and GRACE DE JONG
(nee Datema)

We pray that the Lord who has so faithfully watched over you in the past will continue to guide and bless you in the future.
With much love and best wishes from all of us:
Marguerite & Bill Schenk
Henry & Grace de Jong
Eileen De Jong and Don Wallis
Beatrice and Bernie Kruisselbrink
Your 10 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.
Relatives and friends are cordially invited to celebrate with them at an open house on Saturday, Apr. 29, 1989, from 2-4 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Pineview Apartments. Best wishes only please.
Home address: Pineview Apartments, 1310 Exmouth St., Apt. #3, Sarnia, ON N7S 3X9.

Friesland Strathroy
1939 March 6 1989
"Yet, I am always with you; You hold me by my right hand." (Ps. 73:23)
With gratitude to God, we are happy to announce the 50th wedding anniversary of our dear parents and grandparents:

ED and WILMA BREEUWSMA
(nee Plantinga)

We pray that the Lord will bless you and keep you in his care. Congratulations and love from your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren:
Henk & Sylvia Zantingh — Sarnia
Fred & Felicia Zantingh (Angela, Julie, Janine), Pete & Carolyn Van Reenen (Haley), Arnold
Jerry & Agnes Keunen — Caistor Centre
Tom & Elaine Maerz, Rick, LeeAnne, Jeff
Gary & Linda Heyink — Dresden
Brian, Brenda, Janice, Emily
Dick & Tina Metselaar — Sarnia
Chad, Jolene, Jordan
Mom and Dad were in Florida during the winter. We will not celebrate this happy occasion with them on Saturday, Apr. 29, 1989, by having an open house in their honour at Westmount Chr. Ref. Church, Drury Lane, Strathroy, from 2-4 p.m.
Home address: Trillium Village, 400 Dominion St., Strathroy, Ont.

For Rent

House for rent in Ancaster, near Redeemer College, from July-September 1989. That period is flexible. Phone (416) 648-4607.

Anniversaries

1964 May 1 1989
With praise and thanksgiving to God, we are pleased to announce the 25th wedding anniversary of

MORRIS and TENA DEWOLDE
(nee Schoon)

"Pray in the spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." (Eph. 6:18a)
Rick
Bob
Liza
Darryl
Open house will be held, D.V., in Zion Church, Oshawa, on Monday, May 1, 1989, from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Home address: R.R.#1, Hampton, ON L0B 1J0.

Ooster Nykerk Abbotsford
Fr. B.C.
1939 1989
With thankfulness to the Lord, on May 22, 1989, we hope to celebrate with our parents, their 50th wedding anniversary

JAKE and ALICE KINGMA
(nee Bosch)

Martin & Grace Jurrius
Jake & Magda Kingma
Peter & Alice Kammeraad
Sid & Jeanette Kingma
Haike Kingma
Tom & Florence Dotinga
Peter & Sherry Kingma
Matt & Pearl Peters
29 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.
Home address: 121-3006 Gladwin Rd., R.R.#10, Abbotsford, BC V2S 6W8.

Krimpen a/d Lek Conestogo
1939 April 20 1989
With thankfulness we announce the 50th wedding anniversary of our parents

GERRIT and GERRIE STUBBE
(nee De Bruin)

Best wishes and love from your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren:
Jack & Wilma Stubbe — Conestogo, Ont.
Darlene and Jim, Gerald, Angela, Kevin
John & Rita Overgaauw — Amherstburg, Ont.
Joanne and Jeff, Mark, Carl
Hilda & Mike Dietrich — Wellesley, Ont.
Theresa and Paul, Michael, Peter
Adrie & Herb Horn — Wellesley, Ont.
Christene and Steve (Dwayne, Tyson), Diane, Sylvia
Peter & Gail Stubbe — Waterloo
Sarah, Karina, Heidi
Open house on Saturday, Apr. 29, 1989, from 2:00 - 4:30 p.m., at the First Kitchener Chr. Ref. Church, 338 Ottawa St., Kitchener, Ont. Best wishes only.

For Crossword Puzzle see page 19

Anniversaries

60th Wedding Anniversary
Hengelo Brampton
the Netherlands Ontario
1929 April 20 1989
"He who dwells in the shelter of the most high will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.'" (Ps. 91:1, 2)

JAN and JANTJE MULDER
(nee Mulder)

Mom and Dad, Oma and Opa:
God has indeed been your protector to allow us all to celebrate your 60th wedding anniversary. With the trials and losses you have had, your faith in the Lord has been your strength. May he continue to bless your years together.
Your loving children and grandchildren:
Koop & Janny Mulder — Brampton, Ont.
Henrietta, Jeannette and Jack Van Leeuwen
Henk Mulder — Milton, Ont.
John & Elly Mulder — Milton, Ont.
Tammy, Julie, Christine
Cor & Mary Mulder — Mississauga, Ont.
Home address: Holland Christian Homes, Trinity Towers, #415, 7900 McLaughlin Rd. S., Brampton, ON L6V 3N2.

1959 April 17 1989
With thankfulness to God we hope to celebrate the 30th anniversary of our parents and grandparents

PETER and EDNA SALVERDA
(nee Buma)

We pray that the Lord will keep them together for many years to come.
Your thankful children:
Steve & Wanda — Caistorville, Ont.
Rachel, Crystal, Derek, Shawn
Don & Sandy — Caistorville, Ont.
Amanda, Danielle
Randy & Julie — Hamilton, Ont.
Chris — Tillsonburg, Ont.
Lori — Tillsonburg, Ont.
Home address: 191 Quarterline Rd., Tillsonburg, ON N4G 4E2.

Anniversaries

1954
April 23
1989

With joy and thanksgiving we celebrate the 35th wedding anniversary of our parents and grandparents

JOHN and ANNA VANDER PLOEG
(nee Miedema)

With love:
Florence & Tom Ingerson — Chicago, Ill.
Julian, Johnathon
Agnus & Bo Crus — Chicago, Ill.
Rachel
Stuart & Rose Vander Ploeg — Shallow Lake, Ont.
Wes & Glenda Vander Ploeg — Owen Sound, Ont.
Curtis, Charlotte
Cliff & Marilyn Vander Ploeg — New Dundee, Ont.
Alyssa
Tom Vander Ploeg & Patsy Hiebert — Winnipeg, Man.
Janice Vander Ploeg — Hamilton, Ont.
Glen Vander Ploeg & Rhonda Hayward — Owen Sound, Ont.
Edward Vander Ploeg — Owen Sound, Ont.
Richard Vander Ploeg — Owen Sound, Ont.
Harold Vander Ploeg — Shallow Lake, Ont.

50th Wedding Anniversary
April 26, 1989

PETER and CHRISTINE VANTRIET
(nee Van der Velden)

Praise be to God for his faithfulness.
Children and grandchildren:
Bill & Jane
Byron and Christina, Gerald, Tara
Peter & Rose
Micheal, Debra
Joanne & Jim Poortinga
Chris and Steve, Cindy, Yolunda, Tobi
Great-grandchildren: Kayla, James
Home address: 8147-123rd St., Surrey, BC V3W 3V5.

Congratulations to Egbert and Barbara Wadman (nee Wybinga) on their 65th wedding anniversary.

1924 May 8 1989
We are happy to announce the 65th wedding anniversary of our loving parents, grandparents and great-grandparents

EGBERT and BARBRA WADMAN
(nee Wybinga)

We thank the Lord for the many years he has given them together and being there for us too.
Congratulations from your loving family:
Pete & Corry Wadman and family — Alhambra, Alta.
Duke & Ann Wadman and family — Alhambra, Alta.
Jack & Ingrid Hornstra and family — Alhambra, Alta.
Home address: Westview Lodge, Rocky Mtn. Hse., AB T0M 1T0.

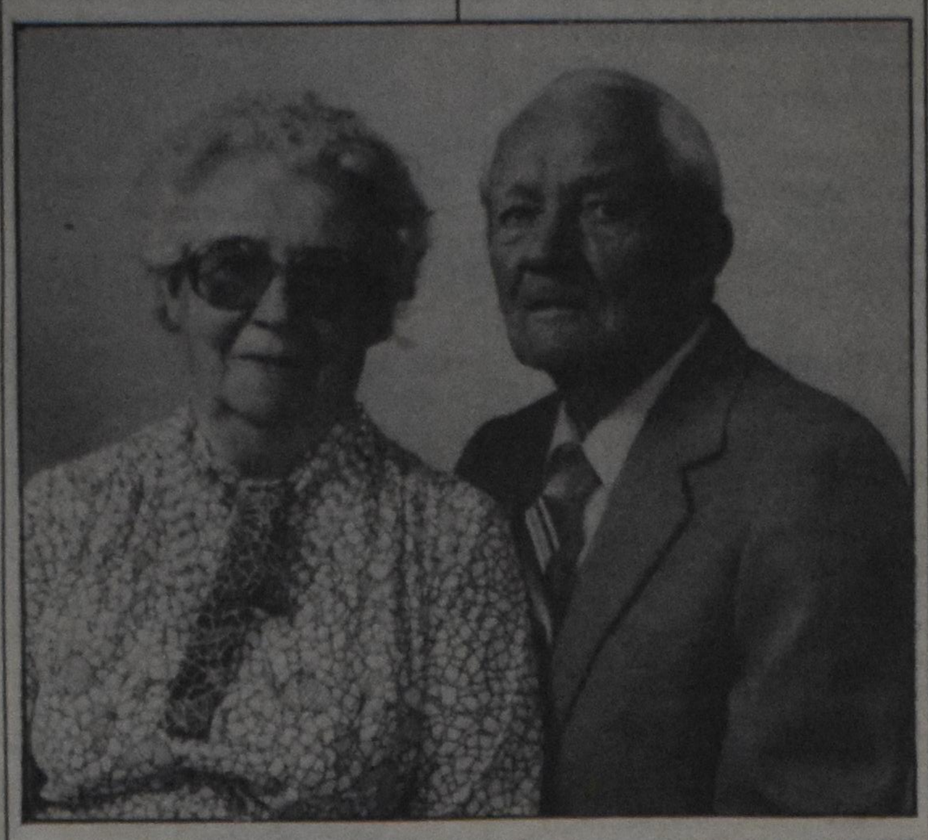
Personals

Christian bachelor, mid-30s, desires meeting sincere Christian woman in Ontario for a possible lasting relationship. Please reply to file #2519, Calvinist Contact, 261 Martindale Rd., Unit 4, St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1.

West Coast widow, 55, wishes correspondence with intelligent, tall man. Reply to File #2518, c/o Calvinist Contact, 261 Martindale Rd., Unit 4, St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1.

Classified

Anniversaries



Congratulations to Johannes and Aaltje Snoeyer (nee Bruulsema) on their 60th wedding anniversary.

Beilen Strathroy
Drente Ontario
1929 May 3 1989

"En het geschiede, dat Jezus zelf bij hen kwam en met hen ging." (Lukas 24:15)

With joy and thanksgiving to God for his blessings and faithfulness, we will celebrate the 60th wedding anniversary of our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents

JOHANNES and AALTJE SNOEYER
(nee Bruulsema)

We pray that the Lord will continue to bless them.

Trijn & Ralph Tamming — Strathroy, Ont.
Albert Snoeyer & Joke Op de Weegh — Assen, the Neth.
Lammy & John Van Vliet — Lethbridge, Alta.
Harry & Gwen Snoeyer — Coaldale, Alta.

15 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Reception on May 6, 1989, in the Strathroy Lions Club Hall from 2-4 p.m.

Home address: 400 Dominion St., Apt. 51, Strathroy, On N7G 3G8.

1939 April 29 1989

Great is thy faithfulness, O God our Father.

With joy and thanksgiving we hope to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents

ROELEF (Ralph) and HENDRIKA SOL
(nee Prins)

May the Lord continue to bless you richly as he has for the past 50 years.

Ralph & Joanne — Woodstock
Ray & Marg — Woodstock
Clarence & Wilma — Kitchener
Ben & Christine Klein Geltink — Cambridge

grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Open house will be held, D.V., in the Covenant Chr. Ref. Church fellowship hall on Saturday, May 6, 1989, from 2-4 p.m.

Home address: 185 Springbank Ave. North, Woodstock, ON N4S 7R2.

For Sale

COOKBOOKS!!!!

Perfect gift for mom on Mother's Day.
- Over 200 recipes
- Easy & well-loved

$5.00 plus $1.50 shipping and handling.

Write:
Providence YP's
c/o Dianne Hellinga
4850 Spring Creek Rd.
R.R.#1, Vineland, ON L0R 2C0
Proceeds to Turning Point Girls Home.

Anniversaries

Contratulations to John and Bonnie Looper (nee Pluister) on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Leek Woodstock
1939 May 10 1989

"The eternal God is thy refuge." (Deut. 33:27a)

With joy and thanksgiving, we hope, D.V., to celebrate with our parents and grandparents

JOHN and BONNIE LOOPER
(nee Pluister)

their 50th wedding anniversary.

We pray that the Lord who has been their refuge in the past will continue to be with them in the future.

Ywe & Barbara Looper — Orleans, Ont.
Heidi, Ywe, Karl
John & Pat Looper — Nepean, Ont.
Ian
Jenne & Jackie Looper — London, Ont.
Amy
Albert & Elizabeth Looper — Kerwood, Ont.
Jason, Julie, Carolyn, Mark, Amanda, Lorraine, Jonathan

Open house: May 13, 1989, from 2-4 p.m. Emmanuel Ref. Church, Clarke St., Woodstock.

Home address: 203 Brenda Crescent, Woodstock, ON N4S 7R8.

For Sale

Small pipe organ, rebuilt, new blower, guaranteed.
$15,000 F.O.B. Toronto. Phone (416) 292-4364.

Personals

Het Consulaat-Generaal zou gaarne in contact willen komen met de navolgende personen:

VAN BEEK, Gerrit, geboren op 26 december 1923, laatstbekende adres in Nederland: Haarlemmerweg 251, Amsterdam. Naar Canada vertrokken op 16 mei 1957.

DEGELING, Hendrika Veronica, geboren op 22 februari 1944 te Grootebroek, laatste woonplaats in Nederland: Enkhuizen. Naar Canada vertrokken in 1975.

HOGENBOOM, Hans, laatstbekende woonplaats in Canada: Orleans, Ont.

DE JONG, Janke Klaas, geboren op 28 februari 1923.

DE JONG, Jelle Tobias, geboren op 11 februari 1927.

NEELEMAN-GORZEMAN, D., geboren op 10 augustus 1911. Laatstbekende adres in Canada: 111 Larch St., apt. 411, Sudbury, ON P3A 3X1.

Netherlands Consulate General
1 Dundas St. W., Suite 2106, Box 2
Toronto, ON M5G 1Z3
Tel. (416) 598-2520

Obituaries

On Mar. 30, 1989, the Lord in his infinite wisdom took unto himself our beloved son and brother

EDWARD JOHN EBBERS

in his 22nd year as a result of an automobile accident.

We pray the Lord will bless you and keep you in his care.

With love from all of us:
Dad & Mom Ebbers
Christine & Frank Castaldo
Roger, Amanda
Herman Ebbers & Teresa Hale
Bill Ebbers & Patti Potts
Andrea Keller (fiancee)

Sadly missed, but never forgotten.

Also missed by Oma Mulder, numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and numerous friends.

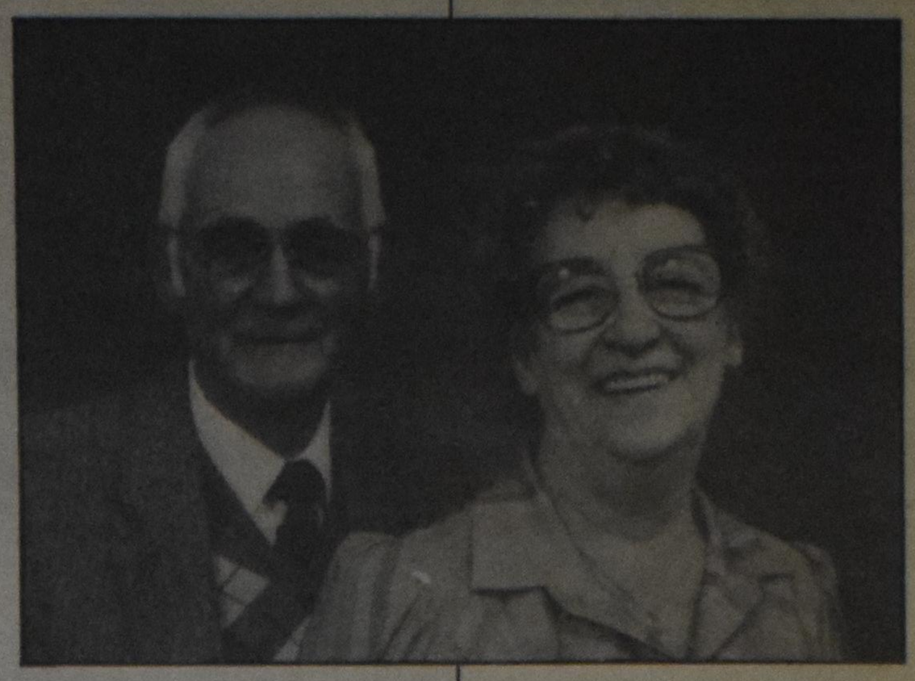
Correspondence address: R.R.#2, Roslin, ON K0K 2Y0.

For Sale

Learn to play
KLAVARSKRIBO
Organ or Piano
- 3 times faster than with the conventional notes
- well-proven European system
- no teacher necessary.

Send $29.95 (plus 75 cents postage and handling) to:
Keyboard Script Enterpr.
871 Erin Place
Edmonton, AB T5T 1M6
Phone (403) 481-1586
and receive your first five lessons. (add $1.50 for catalogue; money-back guaranteed)

Anniversaries



Congratulations to Joost and Wilhelmina Dekker (nee Tensen) on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Andijk Grimsby
1939 May 4 1989

On May 4, 1989, the Lord willing, we hope to celebrate with joy and thanksgiving to the Lord, the 50th wedding anniversary of our parents and grandparents

JOOST and WILHELMINA DEKKER
(nee Tensen)

We pray that the Lord will bless and keep you in his care in the years to come. Love and congratulations from all of your children:

Henry & Olga Dekker
Bob & Lisa, Susan, Sherri Ann, Karen, Jonathan
Don & Anne Whetton
Kristy, Jenny, Michelle
Nellie & Jerry Kralt
Jamie, Caroline, John, Daniel, Rachel, Garett
George & Fran Dekker
Paul, Maria, Mark, Ruth, Grace, ?

We hope to celebrate this occasion with an open house on Saturday, May 6, 1989, from 2:30 till 4:30 p.m. at the Mountainview CRC, corner Bartlett and Hwy. 8, Grimsby. Everyone welcome. Best wishes only.

Home address: 21 Hazelwood Ave., Grimsby, ON L3M 1J9.

Obituaries

"What then shall we say in response to this? If God is for us who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all — how will he not also along with him, graciously give us all things?" (Rom. 8:31, 32)

On Apr. 6, 1989, the Lord called home to higher glory, a dear wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

AUDREY VANDERZWAAG
(nee VandenAkker)

in her 87th year.

Beloved wife of Harry VanderZwaag

Dearly loved mother of:
Albert & Jeanette VanderZwaag — Dundas, Ont.
Catherine & Mac VanderMeulen — Troy, Ont.
Edward & Margaret VanderZwaag — Oakville, Ont.
Janet & Edward Zwart — Grimsby, Ont.
Joan & Ken VanderWal — Hamilton, Ont.
Harry John VanderZwaag — Hamilton, Ont.
Peter (deceased) 1961

Also surviving are 20 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Ethel Kampjes of Grimsby Ont., and Dorothy Visser of Burlington, Ont. The funeral service was held on Apr. 10, 1989, at the First Chr. Ref. Church, Hamilton, Ont. Rev. R. Sikkema officiated.

Correspondence address: 15 Leland St., Hamilton, ON L8S 2Z8.

Obituaries

On Feb. 25, 1989, the Lord took unto himself our dearly beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother

FENNA HAGEMAN
(nee Idema)

in her 97th year.

Her children:
Fred & Dorothy Hageman — Burlington, Ont.
Ben & Lee-Anne
Alida & John
Fenny & Jack
Yolanda & Glen
Yvonne & Doug
Jeff
Gina & Lloyd Bakker — Aylmer, Ont.
Harry, Brian, Fenny, Gretha

Funeral service was held at Aylmer Chr. Ref. Church, Feb. 28, 1989. Rev. H. Boekhoven officiating.

Correspondence address: Fred Hageman, 677 King Rd., Burlington, ON L7T 3K5.

Death has opened the door to life ever more

On Monday, Apr. 3, 1989, the Lord in his grace took unto himself his child and our dearly loved mother and grandmother

JILL (Akke) VANDER HEIDE
(nee Visser)

after a short illness at home.

Beloved wife of the late Jilles Vander Heide (1975)

Predeceased by her son Willie (1986)

Missed by her children:
Gary — Sarnia
Christopher, Rick
Sid & Anne — London
Yvonne, Ron, Jill, Jonathan
Jetty & Richard — London
Michelle, Dave, Julie, Melissa
Daughter-in-law Carol — Putnam
Leanne, Trevor, Peter

Also survived by brothers and sisters:
Murray Visser
Sid Visser
John Visser
— all of Agincourt, Ont.
Frances Vander Wyngaard — Australia
Griet Wierenga — South Africa
Willem Visser
Sjoerd Visser
Tryn Faber
Jettie Vogel
— all of the Netherlands.

Correspondence address: 47 Moffat Cres., London, ON N5W 5X2.

On Apr. 3, 1989, the Lord called home our president

Mrs. JILL VANDER HEIDE

We mourn in Christian sympathy with her children and grandchildren. May the Lord of grace comfort and sustain them.

Ladies Society "Forward in Faith"
London Bethel Chr. Ref. Church.

Classified

Personal

Single Men and Women
If you are over 21 years of age and would like to find a partner in Christian marriage, write to: Christian Marriage Contact Service, P.O. Box 1127, Station B, Burlington, ON L7P 3S9. Please enclose $3.00 for a complete information package explaining our services.
Established in 1967.

Help wanted

MUTUAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS invites you to consider an opportunity for service in a Christ-centred program for children ages nine to 18 with emotional and behavioural problems. This family-model program has three homes with house-parent couples and child-care workers living in, except during days off. Couples, and single men and women are invited to consider and apply to: Mutual Support Systems, R.R.#1, Perry Road, Wellandport, ON L0R 2J0; (416) 899-2311.

Energetic individual needed for busy **landscaping** company doing interlocking stone work, fencing, landscaping, sodding and tree work. Experience preferred, but willing to train the right person. Call in the evening after 7 p.m. (519) 836-5959. The Tree man, R.R.#5, Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0 (close to Guelph). Ask for Ed Kuipery.

Needed immediately: self-starter to **manage and work on a cash-crop and sweet corn farm.** Must be competent in equipment maintenance and have a class "Z" licence. Please call (416) 729-3423 or write Dennis Kunica, R.R.#2, Beeton, ON L0G 1A0.

Miscellaneous

Financial Aid Available
Students from Classis Quinte studying for the ministry in the Christian Reformed Church are invited to apply for financial aid. Write to: Rev. Charles Cornelisse, 563 Braeside Cres., Kingston, ON K7P 1G6.

A Second Century of Proclaiming the Gospel and Developing Churches Around the World

Offering Goal: $10 or more per Family on Pentecost Sunday, May 14.

PRAY that the Spirit of God may work through the lives of more than 500 missionaries and their family members who are witnessing in this second century of CRC missions.

Christian Reformed World Missions

Summer Job Market

DEVLIN, Ont.:
Summer help wanted: Student required for **dairy farm** located near Devlin, Ont. Contact Henry Kaemingh at (807) 486-3662.

Real Estate

Greenhouse for sale: 65,000 sq. ft. greenhouse and auxiliary buildings. Total 12 acres of sandy soil near Waterdown, Ont. Nice one-storey house. Contact Roland Bradshaw Real Estate Ltd., Hamilton, Ont. Phone (416) 574-2433 and ask for George Newlands, Sales Rep.

ADA REALTY LTD.
6012 Ada Blvd.
Edmonton, AB
T5W 4N9
(403) 471-1814
Sid Vandermeulen
Contact us first when you think of moving to Edmonton and district.
Het vertrouwde adres.

Teachers

AYLMER, Ont.: Immanuel Christian School invites applications for definite openings at the **junior level** and a possible opening at the **intermediate level.** Preference will be given to applicants who possess the ability to teach in one or more of the following specialty areas: **French, phys. ed., (intermediate) and special education.** Send letter of application and resume to: Andy VanderPloeg, Principal, Immanuel Christian School, 75 Caverly Rd., Aylmer, ON N5H 2P6 or call (519) 773-8476 (school) or (519) 773-5009 (home).

BELLEVILLE, Ont.: Belleville District Christian School is in need of a teacher in **Grade 2** and in **Grade 7 and 8** for the 1989/90 school year. Interested parties are requested to forward letters of application and resumes to: Belleville District Christian School, R.R.#5, Belleville, ON K8N 4Z5. (M. VanDyk, Principal (613) 962-7849).

BOWMANVILLE, Ont.: Durham Christian High School in Bowmanville is soliciting applications for two teaching positions for the 1989/90 school year. The one position is in **English** and the other is a girls **physical education/mathematics** combination. Please send applications, resumes, and references to: Durham Christian High School, R.R.#1, Bowmanville, ON L1C 3K2. Attention: Mr. Ren Siebenga.

BROCKVILLE, Ont.: John Knox Christian School invites applications for a **teaching principal.** Situated in the beautiful Thousand Islands. This trans-denominational school offers a unique opportunity to an individual prepared to meet a new challenge. Send resume and/or direct inquiries to: Rod Freeman, Principal, 137 Pearl St. E., Brockville, ON K6V 1R2 or phone (613) 345-1101 (school) or (613) 924-9614 (home).

BURLINGTON: Trinity Christian School Burlington, Ont. has possible openings for teachers in the **Junior** and **Intermediate** divisions. Please send resume to: Trinity Christian School, 650 Walkers Line, Burlington, ON L7N 2E7.

BURNABY, B.C.: John Knox Christian School is looking for a teacher to fill a probable half-time **Kindergarten** position, beginning Sept. 1989. Applicants must be eligible for B.C. certification. Please mail applications to P. Valkenier, Principal, 8260-13th Ave., Burnaby, BC V3N 2G5. Phone (604) 522-1410.

DRAYTON, Ont.: Calvin Christian School has an opening for **Grade 1** for the 1989/90 school year. Due to maternity leave, we also need a **Grade 3** teacher from Sept. 1 — Dec. 31, 1989. (There is a possibility of this becoming a full-time position.) We also have a possible opening for a **Grade 7/8** teacher. This position may possibly be combined with the Vice-Principalship in the school. The ability to teach **French** in all positions is a requirement. Please send requests for application forms to: Mr. A.J. Vanderstoel, Principal, Calvin Christian School, Box 141, Drayton, ON N0G 1P0. Phone (519) 638-2935 (school).

DUNNVILLE, Ont.: Dunnville Christian School will need a **Grade 4/5** teacher by September. Strengths in **French** and **music** will be an asset. Dunnville lies at the Grand River on Hwy. 3 and is within a short drive from Redeemer College, Hamilton and St. Catharines.
Send your applications to Mr. William R. Rang c/o Dunnville Chr. School, R.R.#1, Dunnville, ON N1A 2W1. Phone (416) 774-5142.

LONDON, Ont.: London District Christian Secondary School invites applications for possible openings in the **science/math and English** areas for the 1989/90 school year. Please send your letter of application and resume to Mr. H. Kooy, Principal, London District Christian Secondary School, 24 Braesyde Ave., London, ON N5W 1V3. Phone (519) 455-4360.

LUCKNOW, Ont.: Lucknow District Christian School requires a teacher for the **Grade 1/2** classroom or for the **Grade 3/4/5** classroom. Send application and resume to: Principal, Etty Broer, Lucknow District Christian School, Box 550, Lucknow, ON N0G 2H0.

MUSKOKA, Ont.: Muskoka Christian School requires a teacher for a split grade primary class — **Grades 1 and 2.** We are a small school of 75 students, a member of OACS, though more interdenominational than most, set in the heart of beautiful Muskoka. We request a full resume with your application. Mailing address: Box 150, Utterson, ON P0B 1M0. For inquiries call Bill Fitch, Principal, (705) 385-2847 (school) or (705) 645-8276 (home).

MEDICINE HAT, Alta.: Medicine Hat Christian School, a dynamic and growing interdenominational school in sunny southern Alberta invites applications for a position in **junior high (Grades 7-9),** commencing Sept. 1989. Preference will be given to candidates whose specialties are: **social studies, language arts** and **physical education.** We also have an opening in **ECS (Kindergarten)** for four days per week. In addition we need a **Grade 1/2** teacher (combined class). Interested applicants please forward resume and/or direct inquiries to: Wm. Slofstra, Principal, 68 Rice Dr. S.E., Medicine Hat, AB T1B 3X2 or phone (403) 526-7192 (home) or (403) 526-3246 (school).

NEERLANDIA, Alta.: Neerlandia School, a public Christian School, requires an **elementary/lower secondary** teacher for the 1989/90 school year. Must have expertise in **art (fine arts)** and **language arts** or **social studies.** Specialties in **phys-ed** and **French** are desirable. Primary duties will be in the elementary grades. Send applications and inquiries to John Piers, Principal, Neerlandia School, Box 10, Neerlandia, AB T0G 1R0. Phone school (403) 674-5581, home (403) 674-4308.

NEWMARKET, Ont.: Holland Marsh District Christian School. In our caring, supportive community just north of Toronto, we need teachers for **Grade 2 and 8 and Kindergarten.** Please consider these openings prayerfully for 1989/90 and address any inquiries and applications to: Corrie Bootsma, Vice-Principal, Holland Marsh District Christian School, R.R.#2, Newmarket, ON L3Y 4V9. Tel. (416) 775-3701.

ORILLIA, Ont.: Orillia Christian School invites applications for possible positions in the **primary and intermediate grades,** commencing September 1989. Strengths in **music** and/or **French** would be an asset. Orillia Christian School is an interdenominational school with 143 students and eight teachers. Please forward resume and/or inquiries to: Mr. George Kamphuis, Principal, Orillia Christian School, Box 862, Orillia, ON L3V 1G6. Tel.: (705) 326-0532.

RED DEER, Alta.: The Red Deer Christian School has possible openings for the 1989/90 school year in the following areas: Full-time **Kindergarten** and **Grade 2** and part-time **French** (50 per cent). Interested individuals should direct inquiries and applications to the school at 14 McVicar St., Red Deer, AB T4N 0M2, c/o Mr. R. Duggan.

SMITHERS, B.C.: The Christian School Society of Smithers and Telkwa of Smithers B.C. has an opening in **elementary** and **secondary French, upper elementary language arts** and **primary Grades 2 or 3,** and a possible opening in **elementary and secondary phys-ed.** Ours is a two-campus school system. Please contact: Glen Ewald at Box 2117, Smithers, BC V0J 2N0. Phone school (604) 847-9833, res. (604) 847-2186.

TERRACE: Centennial Chr. School, located in Terrace, B.C., is inviting applications for openings in **K-8** for the 1989-90 school year. Centennial Chr. School, operating since 1967, with a present enrolment of 92 students, moving into new school facilities and adding a possible Grade 8 class, will make the 89-90 school year exciting and challenging. The school, located in the beautiful Skeena Valley, offers many dynamic opportunities for teachers. For further information please contact: Frank Voogd, Principal, 3602 Sparks St., Terrace, BC V8G 2V6. Tel. (604) 635-6173.

TORONTO, Ont.: Toronto Central Christian School invites applications for a teaching position in the **junior class (multi-Grades 3, 4, and 5).** Experience, interest in an integrated curriculum approach and some **French** skills would be an asset. Please call G. Dekker at the school (416) 968-2036 or home (416) 466-6304 or send resume to: Toronto Central Christian School, 55 Salisbury Ave., Toronto, ON M4X 1C5.

WILLIAMSBURG, Ont.: Timothy Christian School of Williamsburg, in beautiful eastern Ontario, and fairly close to Ottawa, is in need of a teacher for **Grade 2 and 3** (20 pupils). This attractive seven-room school has at present: 132 students from K-8, a central library, a gym, large playgrounds and a very supportive Christian community. Teachers who would like to become part of our dedicated team of 10 teachers are asked to send their applications to the principal of TCS, Williamsburg, ON K0C 2H0. Phone (613) 535-2687 (school) or 535-2152 (home).

For Rent

Want to rent a car while in Holland?

Jan Kalma has the key to all forms of car rentals.

Will deliver car to Amsterdam airport if desired.

jan kalma
De Meer 24, 9201 EZ Drachten
The Netherlands — Tel. (31) 5120-15199
Fax (31) 5120-32324

For more teachers' ads see page 18

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Share our vision

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I want to subscribe to *Calvinist Contact.*
Here is my cheque for:
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Please start my subscription today.

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Calvinist Contact
261 MARTINDALE ROAD
UNIT 4
ST. CATHARINES, ON
L2W 1A1

Classified/News/Events

Help wanted	Help wanted	Help wanted	Help wanted	News

Christian Farmers Federation of Alberta
invites applications for:

Development Education Coordinator

Responsibilities include working with Federation Locals to raise public awareness of, and encourage appropriate responses to global disparities in food production, distribution and trade; building relations with Two-Thirds World farmers; administering grant funding; assistance in production of development issue of Earthkeeping magazine.

Qualifications: Working familiarity with international and Canadian development issues, especially food and agriculture; good communication and volunteer development skills; ease in employing participatory education methods; commitment to forwarding the Federation's goals and purposes.

Salary for half-time position commensurate with experience and CFFA's salary grid. Job description available.

Please submit letter of application, resume and references by May 15, 1989 to:
CFFA, Gus Polman, 10766 - 97 St., Edmonton, AB T5H 2M1
(403) 428-6981

Editor/Office Coordinator

Responsibilities include office management, coordinating Federation events and mailings; editing CFFA newsletter; and Earthkeeping magazine, co-published 5 times a year by the Christian Farmers Federations of Alberta and Ontario on issues of faith and agriculture to stimulate responsibility in the food system.

Qualifications: Journalistic sensitivities, proven ability to write clearly and easily and to exercise judgement under pressure; practiced organizational, editing, enabling skills; commitment to Federation goals and purposes; computer and publishing process familiarity desirable.

Salary for half-time position commensurate with experience and CFFA's salary grid. Job description available.

Please submit letter of application, resume, references, and writing samples by May 15, 1989 to: **CFFA, Gus Polman, 10766 - 97 St., Edmonton, AB T5H 2M1 (403) 428-6981**

Teachers	Teachers

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Tel. (519) 966-7424

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Director of Youth Ministry

Maple Ridge Christian Reformed Church, located in the beautiful Fraser Valley of British Columbia, seeks a Director of Youth Ministry.

The successful candidate should have sound organizational skills and musical ability. Experience is an asset.

Please direct inquiries and resumes to:
Gerry Meyer,
Maple Ridge Christian Reformed Church
P.O. Box 94, Maple Ridge, BC V2X 7E9

Events	Events

RBC

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

REFORMED BIBLE COLLEGE

With thanks to our Saviour God, RBC invites all past and future supporters, together with alumni, to celebrate this milestone of 50 years of blessings, at easily accessible **Redeemer College Campus, 777 Hwy. 53 E., Ancaster, Ont.**

RBC graduates are serving Christ in the U.S., Canada, Nigeria, Honduras, Dominion Republic, Kenya, Uganda, El Salvador, Haiti, the Philippines, Egypt, Cyprus, Korea, Peru, Mexico, etc. Tens of thousands of lives have been reached through their ministry.

May 11, 1989 **Punch 6:15 p.m.**
Dinner 6:45 p.m.

Call **before May 5** for your **complimentary tickets: Wally or Irene Boonstra (416) 527-1999.**

Join the celebration with Dr. Edwin Roels, new President, participating.

THE VISION LIVES AT RBC!

Antonides warns of liberation theology

C.C. staff, from a report by Klaas Brobbel

TORONTO — The missionary organization "Jesus to the Communist World" has found a strong interest in Latin America in the Spanish translation of a booklet written by Harry Antonides that is critical of liberation theology.

The booklet consists of Chapter 8 of Antonides' book, *Stones for Bread*, published in 1985. The title of the booklet, reprinted in English, is "Liberation Theology: A Secular Program for Revolutionary Change." A French printing has also been prepared.

The first printing of the Spanish edition ran to 20,000 copies, but the response was so strong that more copies could have been used. In addition, 10,000 copies were printed and distributed free of charge in Peru, 5,000 are being printed in Costa Rica, and 20,000 copies have been requested for the Dominican Republic. The Spanish translation was prepared by Lydia Dokter, who was a missionary for 10 years each in Argentina and in Honduras. It contains an introduction by Rev. Juan Boonstra, Spanish broadcast missionary for Christian Reformed Church's Back to God Hour."

The booklet is largely a criticism of the writing of liberation theologian Gustavo Gutierrez, plus a criticism of utopianism and the secular theology of self-redemption. Antonides says that, in spite of good intentions, use of the scriptures and scriptural themes, and a focus on real injustices and sufferings and the need for economic and political reform, "liberation theology as presented by Gutierrez and others is a fundamental departure from biblical religion."

Enthusiastic response comes mostly from non-Reformed people, Christians of the Pentecostal persuasion. The publication in English of 5,000 copies has also been well-received.

For Crossword Puzzle see page 19

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Events

ANNIVERSARY

The **Christian Reformed Churches of Woodstock and surrounding area** will be celebrating their **40th anniversary on May 28, 1989, D.V.**
The service will be held on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in the **Knox Presbyterian Church, Woodstock, Ont.**
Also, a social gathering will be held on Saturday, May 27th, at 1 p.m. at the John Knox Christian School.
Former members are invited to worship with us.
For information or lodging call:

Renny Hettinga (519) 475-4445
or
Janny Bergman (519) 537-8459

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Tickets: $4.00 | **24 Braesyde Ave. London, Ontario** | **April 20, 21, 22 8 p.m.**

DUTCH SERVICE

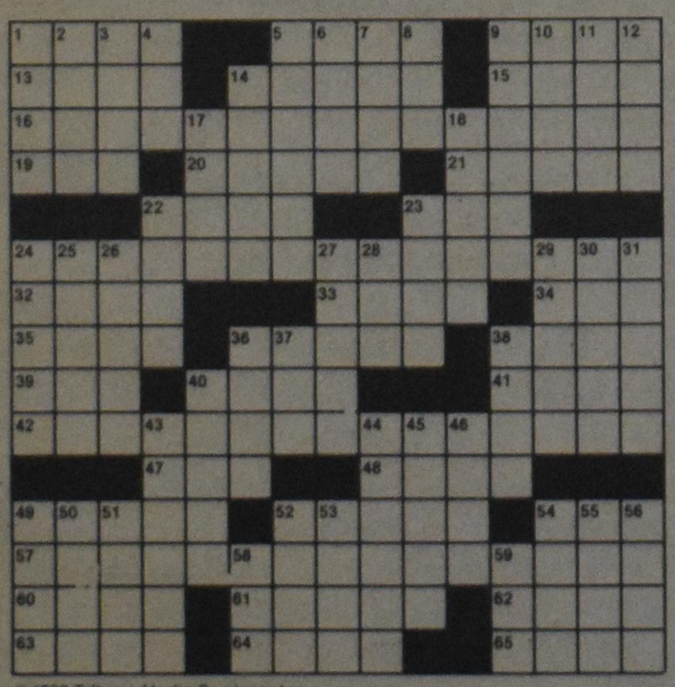
PLACE: Ancaster CRC, #70 Highway 53 East, Ancaster (approx. 2 km. west of Redeemer College)
DATE: Sunday, April 30, 1989 **TIME:** 3:00 p.m.
PASTOR: Rev. Henry De Moor

Calendar of Events

Apr. 22	"The Great 88 and Other Keyboards," a young people concert at 2 p.m. in the Redeemer College Auditorium, **Ancaster,** Ont., introducing the piano, the harpsichord, the organ and the synthesizer. Music to see!
Apr. 22	Concert by Sarnia's "Soli Deo Gloria" with guest choir "Conspirito" from Wyoming. At 8 p.m. in the First CRC, **Sarnia,** Ont.
Apr. 28	CCM Niagara Chapter meets at 8 p.m., Bethany CRC, **Fenwick,** Ont.
Apr. 28	Organist John Vandertuin in recital at 8 p.m., Trinity CRC, **St. Catharines,** Ont.
Apr. 29	The King's College - Convocation/ Graduation at 7 p.m. in All-Saints Cathedral, **Edmonton,** Alta.
Apr. 29	Concert by the combined St. Thomas Ladies Choir, the St. Thomas Male Choir and the Strathroy Mixed Choir. At 8 p.m. in the CRC, **Mt. Brydes,** Ont.
Apr. 29	Spring concert by Andre Knevel at 8 p.m. in Mountainview CRC, **Grimsby,** Ont.
Apr. 29	Spring concert by the Maranatha Singers of Cambridge CRC, the Wainfleet Maranatha Choir and the Cambridge Chr. School Choir & Recorder Group. At 8 p.m. in the Maranatha CRC, **Cambridge,** Ont.
Apr. 29	Organist Christiaan Teeuwsen in concert at the new pipe organ, at 8 p.m. in the Maranatha CRC, **Bowmanville,** Ont. Collection.
Apr. 29	Lawn sale, proceeds to Chr. Heritage Party. From 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 468 Canboro Rd., **Fenwick,** Ont. For info. call (416) 892-5031.
Apr. 29	Spring concert by the "Laudate Dominum Choir" from Chatham. At 8 p.m. in the CRC, **Ancaster,** Ont. $5.00 at the door.
May 5	Peter Slofstra in concert with the SRS Studio Band, at 8 p.m., Chatham & District Chr. High, **Chatham,** Ont.
May 5-6	Concert by the "Chapel Singers (dir. Henry Goertzen) and the Christian Choir "New Life" (dir. Les Neufeld) at 8 p.m. in the Covenant CRC, **St. Catharines,** Ont. Tickets: $5.00 (adults), $3.00 (children & seniors), $15.00 (family).
May 5-7	Annual Young Adults Spring Rally in **Burlington,** Ont. Main speaker: Rev. D. Feddes. For info. call (519) 623-1734 or (416) 383-1134.
May 6	Camp Ke-Mon-Oya Staff Reunion, from 4-8 p.m. at Grace CRC, **Scarborough,** Ont. For info. call (416) 466-6304 (p.m.)
May 9-13	Organist Frans van der Hauw (Bolsward) in concert: **May 9:** at 7:30 p.m., Heritage Hall, Holland Chr. Homes, **Brampton,** Ont.; **May 10:** at 8 p.m. in Maranatha Can. Ref. Church **Fergus,** Ont.; **May 12:** at 8 p.m. Knox Presb. Church, **Grand Valley,** Ont.; **May 13:** at 8 p.m. Collier St. United Church, **Barrie, Ont.**
May 10	Convention 1989 of the Can. Fed. of CR Women. At **Bramalea** Baptist Church (corner Hwy. 7 and Dixie Rd.). Speakers: Rev. H.A. Vander Windt and Mrs. Donna Lee Walter.
May 12-14	Spring Conference of the CR Singles Fellowship of Ottawa. At Carleton University, **Ottawa,** Ont. Keynote speaker: Rev. Jack Quartel. For info. call (613) 727-5851 or 591-1432. Register before April 25, 1989.
May 19-21	**Ninth Annual Clinton Klompen Feest.** Fri.-Sat.: RCMP Musical Ride, etc.; Sunday: Interdenominational church service only. For info. call (519) 482-7893.
May 19-22	Fifteenth Annual All-Ontario Young Calvinist Convention "Prepare for Glory" at Carleton University, **Ottawa,** Ont. For info. call (519) 745-3371.
May 20-22	40th Anniversary of the CRC, **Aylmer,** Ont. Everyone welcome!
May 26-27	"New Creation" Retreat Weekend for Classes Niagara/Hamilton. At Mount Carmel Retreat Center, **Niagara Falls,** Ont. For info. call (416) 892-8059.
May 27	A.B.C. Sale at Shalom Manor, **Grimsby,** Ont. from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. A Dutch market flavour where you can buy almost anything. (Crafts, flowers, shrubs, baked goods.) Come and support your seniors!!!
May 27-28	40th Anniversary celebrations of the **Woodstock and area** Chr. Ref. Churches. For info. call (519) 475-4445 or 537-8459. All former members are invited.

Weekly Puzzle

by James V. Schick



ACROSS
1 Cote d' —
5 — bene
9 Charles' dog
13 Ballot
14 Buenos Aires dictator
15 Evening in Paris
16 Start of saw, modernized
19 Coach Unseld
20 Went wrong
21 Skating places
22 "The — Love"
23 La Paz's land: abbr.
24 Saw continued
32 Mata —
33 Genuine
34 Gene info carrier
35 Lat. abbr.
36 Stows
38 Is sick
39 US soldiers
40 Blood
41 Busy ones
42 Saw continued
47 Hgt.
48 Thrash
49 Houston pro
52 Solzhenitsyn's archipelago
54 Neg. opposite
57 Saw concluded
60 Duck
61 Dance
62 Like ruche
63 Playground
64 Wings
65 Corner

DOWN
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2 Region
3 Shoshoneans
4 Legal matter
5 Of a nervous system
6 Escutcheon border
7 Mary Lincoln nee —
8 Sothern actress
9 "Let — be your..."
10 Anon
11 Watch sound
12 2 x 2 boats?
14 Obscene lit.
17 Use ears
18 Sing
22 1149
23 Prejudice
24 On — (bustling)
25 — hand (humbly)
26 Expunge
27 Law partner
28 Poor grade
29 True partner
30 Ria
31 Riata
36 Misplaced
37 Bow
38 Aid partner
40 Old-time dance
43 — Robbins
44 Compel
45 "— shining sea"
46 Condiment
49 M. Belli: abbr.
50 Mets' home
51 Emotional drop
52 Final purpose
53 Ensigns' col.
54 Former TV host
55 Formerly
56 — terrier
58 Sch. gp.
59 Deli order letters

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Last Week's Puzzle

A	H	A	B		P	O	L	E		S	A	L	E	M
B	I	L	E		E	V	I	L		A	G	O	R	A
C	L	A	D		T	E	L	L		D	E	V	I	L
S	L	I	P	P	E	R	Y	A	S	A	N	E	E	L
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E	P	I		A	E	G	I	S		U	V	E	A	L
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S	N	E	R	D		S	T	L	O		T	E	S	S

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Church news

Christian Reformed Church

Change in worship time
— East Strathroy, Ont., CRC will worship at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., effective May 7 to Sept. 3, 1989, inclusive.

The Maranatha Singers of the Cambridge Christian Reformed Church invite you to

A MUSICAL BOUQUET

Spring concert to be held at Maranatha Christian Reformed Church, 94 Elgin St. South

on **April 29th at 8 p.m., D.V.**

Also featuring: The Wainfleet Maranatha Choir and the Cambridge Christian School Choir and Recorder Group.

Tickets available at the door — $4.00 single, $10.00 family

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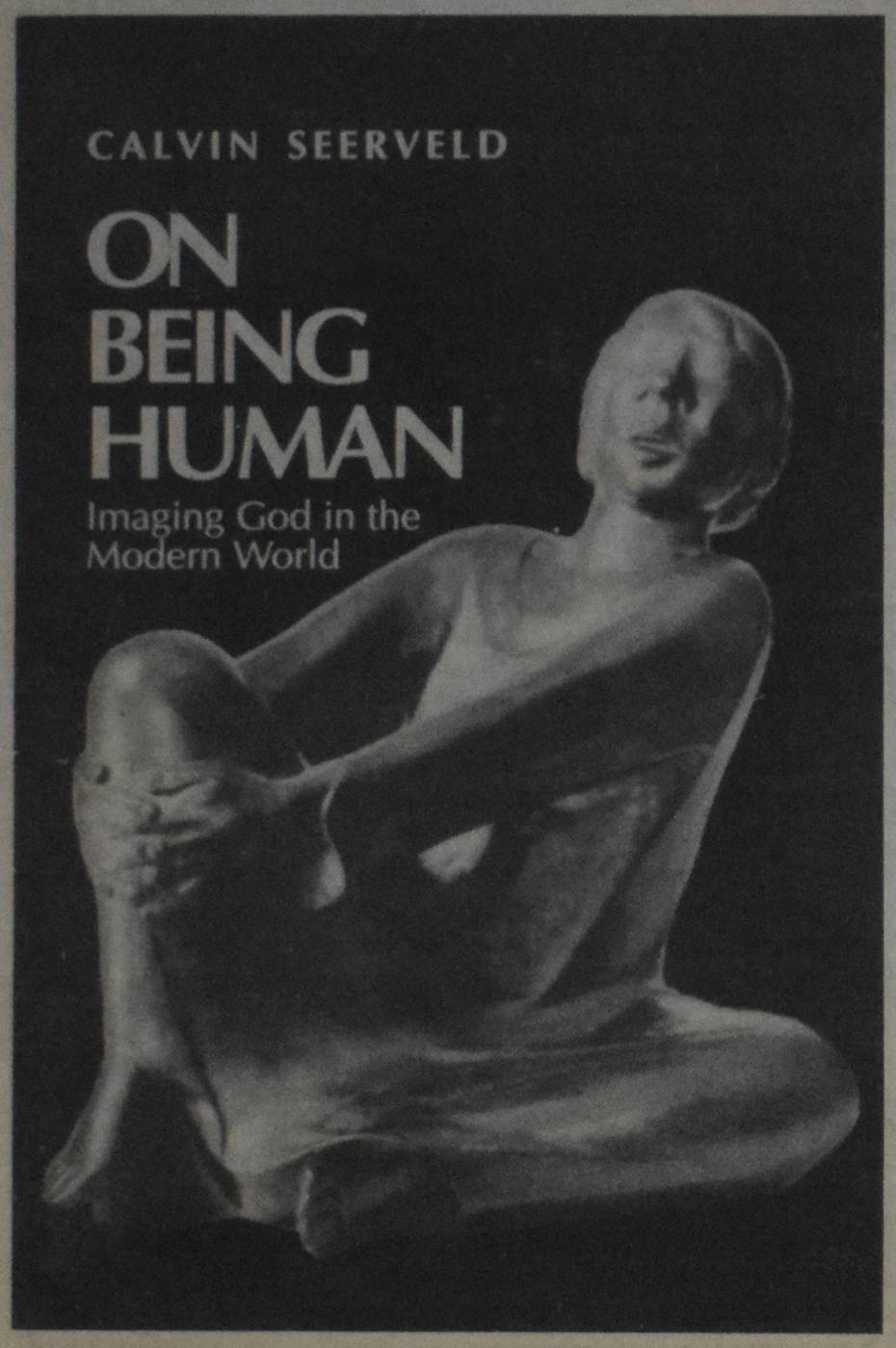

On Being Human: Imaging God in the modern world, by Calvin Seerveld. Burlington: G.R. Welch Publishing, 1989. Paperback, 104 pp., $7.95. Reviewed by John Kerssies, pastor of Calvin Christian Reformed Church, Ottawa, Ont.

Dr. Calvin Seerveld, senior member in philosophical aesthetics at Toronto's Institute for Christian Studies, assisted by his friends Robert VanderVennen and Willem Hart, is the author of an interesting little book titled, *On Being Human*. This book is a compilation of seven lectures Seerveld originally delivered at a conference on Christian philosophical studies in Zeist, the Netherlands.

These written lectures are delightfully and delicately accompanied by replicas of paintings and sketches produced by Christian artists such as Ernst Barlach, Rembrandt van Rijn, Flip van der Burgt, Holly Risch, and others, as well as by scripture passages versified by Seerveld himself and set to music by different Christian composers.

On the book's back cover the reader is informed that "This is *not* just another book of meditations. This is a book which promises to engage all of your senses while vividly illustrating what it really means to be human. Through the use of scripture, stunning artworks, original songs and prayers, the author explores the miracle of being human, in the image of God."

Each of the seven chapters is introduced by a passage of scripture translated and paraphrased in the author's own unique style. These scripture passages are more than general introductions to the rest of the chapters. They form the foundational bases out of which the rest of the chapters naturally flow.

In this book Seerveld observes seven different aspects on what it means to be human:

1. "To be a human creature is to be *coram Deo*, to live before the face of God." In this chapter the emphasis is on prayer.

2. "... It is a mark of humanity to be sinful, prone to sin." It is a humanist mistake, writes Seerveld, to describe sinful deviations as "bestial." "The enormity of Nazi crime is that it was human."

3. "... Another dimension of being human: being fragile." Here Seerveld challenges the reader to "accept in faith that our brief lifetime is a trust from the Lord." The author describes "our human, timed existence" as a "short pilgrimage," a walking around "in our underwear ... tenting, exposed to harm."

4. In the next chapter Seerveld calls attention to the scriptural focus "on the all-important change that needs to happen in our being human and our human becoming in God's world: becoming adopted children of God." This is a description of salvation.

5. "Another feature peculiar to humanity ... is our being neighbourhooded on earth."

6. "The order of Melchizedek is God's appointed commission for human leadership in history." This leadership is characterized by "mercy, not mastery."

7. Finally, "to be human is to live in joyful expectation of an everlasting fulness of creaturely glory, rubbing shoulders with the Lord God ...." Another way of stating this truth is that "being human is to be ontically pregnant, you might say."

Throughout the various chapters we find a rich variety of biblically-oriented observations on what it means to be human in God's world. These observations are neither theological theses nor philosophical premises. They are biblically-rooted yet practical characterizations of what it means to live obediently before the face of God. This book indeed is not "just another book of meditations"; it can very meaningfully serve as a source of spiritual meditations for Christians who wish to explore the miracle of being human, of what it means to be fashioned in the image of God.

Friends of God

Wayne Brouwer

A good reputation

"... enjoying the favour of all people." **(Acts 2:47)**

Leaving a New York shop one day, actress Joan Crawford decided to take advantage of the sunny weather and walk home. "But, madam," protested her chauffeur, "you'll be mobbed!"

"I should certainly hope so!" she replied.

Fame

"We are so presumptuous that we should like to be known all over the world," said Pascal, "even by people who will only come when we are no more!" Schopenhauer compared fame to sea-water: the more we drink, the thirstier we become. And Bertrand Russell once wrote of a condemned murderer who complained if the newspapers didn't report enough of his story from the trials.

Thomas Macaulay became famous after his *History of England* was published. He wrote to a friend about what he described as "the proudest event of my life": in June of 1850, the first living hippopotamus was brought to the London Zoo, and huge crowds lined up to see such a beast. But just as the exhibit was about to open, Macaulay walked by. Two young women noticed him, and shouted his name in excitement. And then came the words that stirred his soul: "Never mind the hippopotamus!" Though they had paid a shilling each, and were about to view the thrill of a lifetime, they left the lineup, and held conversation with him! "I can wish for nothing more on earth!" he told his friend.

Fleeting

But fame can vanish as quickly as it comes. Thomas Fuller said it was like a certain kind of mushroom: it grows overnight, and dies as soon because it has no root. And "men shut their doors against the setting sun!" (Shakespeare, *Timon of Athens)*

Few people now know the name of Hall Caine, for instance, who was internationally admired in the first half of this century. His books were translated into every known language and his appearance (not unlike Shakespeare's) was familiar to everyone. When the Russian novelist Maksim Gorki visited London and was introduced at a party to such literary greats as Hardy, Conrad, Shaw, Wells, and Bennett, he inspected the guests for the famous face and, not finding it, demanded, "Where is Hall Caine?"

But who remembers him today?

Things that matter

"How does it feel to be a celebrity?" Walt Disney was once asked.

"It feels fine," he replied, "when it helps to get a good seat for a football game. But it never helped me to make a good film or a good shot in a polo game, or command the obedience of my daughter. It doesn't even seem to keep fleas off our dogs — and if being a celebrity won't give one an advantage over a couple of fleas, then I guess there can't be much in being a celebrity after all."

Things that matter in life go deeper than a momentary flicker of fame. Once when actor Gregory Peck entered a crowded restaurant, there were no tables available. A friend suggested that he push his fame as an advantage: "Tell them who you are!"

But Peck had more grace. "If you have to tell them who you are," he said, "you aren't anybody!"

The early Christians enjoyed a good reputation. Not because they wanted it, mind you, but because it was the last thing in the world they cared for. Who had time to buy temporary fame when their names had already been written in glory for all eternity?

Besides, one of their greatest leaders had said, "He [Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease!" As they lived by that motto, others found them refreshingly down to earth. And their reputation still lives!

Wayne Brouwer is a pastor at First Christian Reformed Church in London, Ont.

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